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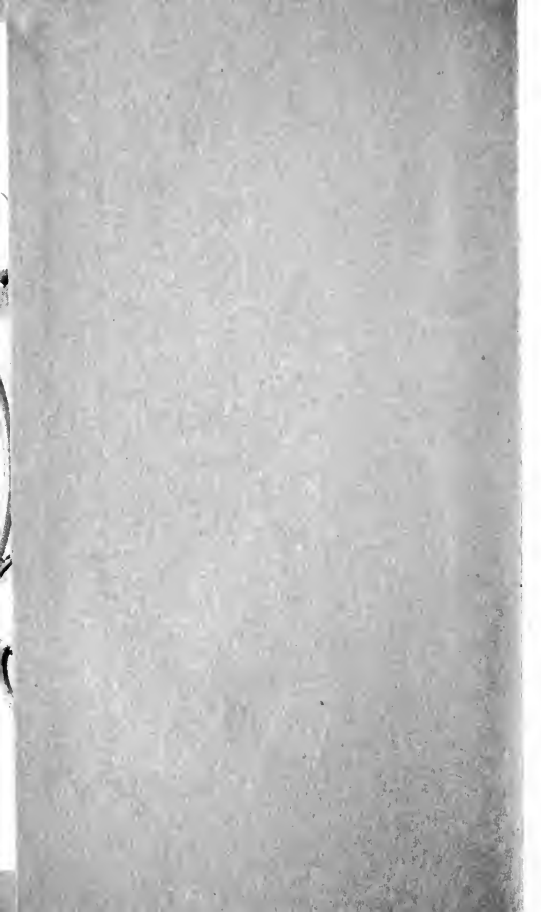
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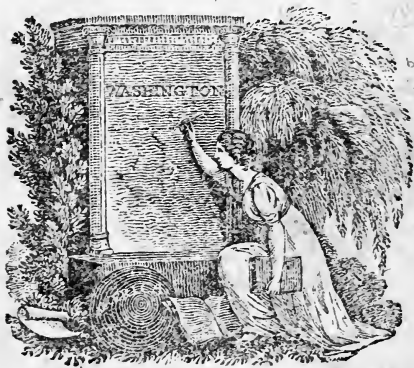
General George Washington,

LATE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA,

AND

*Commander in Chief of their Armies, during the
Revolutionary War.*

Dedicated to the Youth of America.



From Sibney's Press.

FOR I. COOKE & CO. BOOK-SELLERS, N. HAVEN.

1810.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
PRESS

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motives of his actions, and celebrates those virtues which have raised him to an enviable pre-eminence above his cotemporaries.

We sympathize in the sufferings, and participate the triumphs of those illustrious men who stand

“Majestic ’mid the monuments of Time;” and the approbation of excellence in others, naturally leads the mind to imitate the object of its adoration.

Among those patriots who have a claim to our veneration, George Washington appears in a conspicuous place in the first rank. The ancestors of this extraordinary man, in the year 1657, emigrated from England to America, and settled in the colony of Virginia; here, by unremitting industry they became opulent and respectable, and gave their name to the parish of Washington, in Westmoreland county.—George Washington, the hero of the following history, was the fruit of a second marriage, and was born in the settlement of Chotank, in the above-mentioned county, on the 11th of February, (O.S.) 1732.

The extensive settlement of Chotank was originally purchased by the Washington family; the extreme fertility of the soil induced those settlers to cultivate tobacco in several plantations; for this purpose they purchased a number of negro slaves, and, consequently population was

rapidly increased. At the time our hero was born, all the planters throughout this extensive settlement were his relations—hence, his youthful years glided away in all the pleasing gaiety of social friendship. He received a private education, and was initiated in the elements of Religion, Morality, and Science by a private tutor; and, from the tenor of his actions it is manifest, that uncommon pains were taken to cherish the best propensities of human nature in his heart:

In the 10th year of his age, he had the misfortune to lose an excellent father, who died in 1742, and the patrimonial estate devolved to an elder brother.—This young gentleman had been an officer, in the Colonial troops sent in the expedition against Carthagena. On his return he called the family mansion Mount Vernon, in honour of the British Admiral, and destined his brother George to serve in the navy.

Accordingly, in his 15th year, our hero was entered as a midshipman, on board a British frigate, stationed on the coast of Virginia. He prepared to embark, with all the alacrity of youth; but his nautical career was stopped by the interposition of maternal love. Ever obedient to an affectionate mother, young Washington relinquished his desire of going to sea; the energies of his mind were to be exerted on a more stable element.

As his patrimonial estate was by no means considerable, his youth was employed in useful industry; and in the practice of his profession as a surveyor, he had an opportunity of acquiring that information respecting vacant lands, and of forming those opinions concerning their future value, which, afterwards, greatly contributed to the increase of his private fortune.

The first proof that he gave of his propensity to arms was in the year 1751, when the office of Adjutant-General of the Virginia militia became vacant by the death of his brother, and Mount Vernon, together with a large estate, came into his possession. At this time, the extensive population of the colony made it expedient to form the militia corps into three divisions, and Washinton, in his 20th year, was appointed Major. He attended to his duty, as an officer, with exemplary propriety and vigilance—was indefatigable in the discipline of the troops—and generally beloved, both by his brother officers and the private men, for his mildness and generosity.

In the year 1753, the incroachments of the French upon the western boundaries of the British Colonies excited a general alarm in Virginia, infomuch that Govenor Dinwiddi deputed Washington to ascertain the truth of those rumours; he was also empowered to enter into a

treaty with the Indians, and remonstrate with the French upon their proceedings. On his arrival at the back settlements, he found the Colonists in a very unpleasant situation, from the depredations of the Indians, who were incessantly instigated by the French to the commission of new aggressions. He found that the French themselves had also committed several outrages against the defenceless settlers ; nay, that they had proceeded so far as to establish posts within the boundaries of Virginia. Washington strongly remonstrated against those acts of hostility, and warned the French to desist from the incursions. On his return, his report to the Governor was published, and it evinced that he performed this honourable mission with great prudence.

The repeated inroads of the French and Indians on the frontiers of Virginia, made it necessary to encrease the military establishment ; and early in the spring of 1754, a new regiment was raised, of which Professor Fry, of the college was appointed Col. and Washington lieutenant-colonel. Mr. Fry died soon after the regiment was embodied, and was succeeded by our hero, who paid unremitting attention to the discipline of this new corps. He established magazines of provision and ammunition, and opened the roads to the frontiers in order to pre-occupy an important post at the confluence of the Monongahela

and Alleghany rivers. His regiment was to have been reinforced by a detachment from the southern colonies, and a corps of provincials from North Carolina and Maryland; but impelled by the urgency of the occasion, he advanced without the expected succours in the month of May. The troops proceeded by forced marches towards the defile, and their commander dispatched two scouts to reconnoitre; but though his rapid march was facilitated by the fine weather, yet, when he ascended the Lauril Hills, fifty miles distant from the place of destination, he was met by his scouts who returned with intelligence, that the enemy were in possession of the post, had built a fort, and stationed a large garrison there. Washington now held a council of war with the other officers, but while they were deliberating a detachment of the French came in sight, and obliged them to retreat to a savanna called the Green Meadows.

The fortitude of Washington was put to a severe test on this occasion, he retired with the troops to an eminence in the savanna, and about noon began to erect a small fortification. He called his temporary defence Fort Necessity, and encouraged the regiment both by his voice and example, to raise a redoubt on which they planted two field pieces. They surrounded the camp with an entrenchment in which they toiled with

unremitting exertions during the subsequent night. Thus fortified, they prepared to resist the meditated attack of the enemy ; and about sunrise, on the following morning, were joined by Capt. M^c Kay, with a company of regulars. The little army now amounted to about 400 men. On the approach of the advanced guard of the French, the Americans sallied forth, attacked and defeated them ; but the main body of the enemy, amounting to 1500 men, compelled them to retire to the intrenchments.— The camp was now closely invested, and the Americans suffered severely from the grape shot of the enemy, and the Indian riflemen. Washington however, defended the works with such skill and bravery, that the besiegers were unable to force the intrenchments. At length after a conflict of ten hours, in which 150 of the Americans were killed and wounded, they were obliged to capitulate. They were permitted to march out with the honours of war, and lay down their arms in front of the French lines ; but they were afterwards plundered by the hostile Indians, during their return to Virginia.

This defeat excited a strong emotion of sorrow in the breasts of their countrymen ; and tho' several persons censured the precipitance of Washington in this affair, yet the general conviction of his integrity prevented those mur-

murs from doing him any injury. Indeed his conduct was liable to censure ; he ought to have waited for the necessary reinforcements, a junction with whom would probably have crowned his enterprize with success. His inexperience and the active ardor of a youthful mind, may afford some palliation of his imprudence ; but his rashness in this instance was so different from his subsequent prudence, that probably this inauspicious commencement of his military career, was the origin of the circumspection and vigilance which afterwards marked his conduct in a successful defensive war.

Let us for a moment enquire into the cause of these unprovoked hostilities of the French against the British colonies. As France, for many centuries had been the professed rival of England, she beheld the rapid prosperity of these colonies, and the consequent aggrandizement of the mother country, with envious apprehension. The French government had made settlements in North America, and divided this vast continent into two provinces ; the northern was called Canada, and the southern Louisiana. But as the principal part of this territory was, comparatively, barren and uncultivated, the French formed the ambitious project of obtaining possession of the British settlements by force. For this purpose they erected a chain of forts

which extended throughout an immense tract of country. These fortifications were garrisoned by troops, well supplied by military stores ; but the circumjacent regions were totally uninhabited, except by hunting parties of the wandering Indians.

The French engaged these savages in their interest, by supplying them with arms and ammunition in exchange for rich furs. Thus they obtained the alliance of a formidable and enterprising race, who naturally hated the British colonists, whom they considered as the original invaders of their country.

In the summer of 1754, the French having built several forts within the boundaries of the British settlements, an army of veterans was sent from France to support those unjustifiable encroachments. We have already mentioned their victory over the troops commanded by Washington, and that they had erected a fort at an advantageous post, which it had been his determination to secure. They named this fortress Du Quesne, in which they stationed a strong garrison well provided with military stores. Those hostile measures on the part of France, excited the indignation of the English Government, and orders were issued to make general reprisals in Europe and America.

In the year 1755, General Braddock was sent

to America, at the head of two veteran regiments from Ireland, to reduce the forts on the Ohio. On his arrival, he was joined by the independent and provincial corps of America : but when the army was ready to march against the enemy, the want of waggons for the conveyance of stores; had almost proved an insurmountable obstacle to the expedition. In this emergency a patriotic American stepped forward and removed the difficulty ; this was the celebrated Benjamin Franklin, whose extraordinary talents had already contributed to the diffusion of knowledge and happiness. This benign philosopher exerted his influence so effectually with his countrymen, that in a short time he collected 150 waggons, which proved an ample supply for the army.

As in consequence of a military regulation, "no officer who did not derive his commission from the King could command one who did," Washington resigned ; but strongly attached to a military life, and emulous to defend his country with distinguished zeal, he voluntarily served under Gen. Braddock as an extra aid-de-camp. That General marched against Fort Duquesne ; but soon after he crossed the river Monongahela, the van division of his army was attacked by an ambuscade of French and Indians, and totally defeated. The thickness of

the woods prevented both the European and provincial troops from being able to defend themselves with effect ; they could neither keep their ranks, nor charge the enemy with the bayonet, while the Indians who were expert at bush-fighting, and were widely scattered, fired at them in all directions from behind the trees where they were concealed from their foes, and took a fatal aim. Washington had cautioned Gen. Braddock in vain ; his ardent desire of conquest made him deaf to the voice of prudence ; he saw his error when too late, and bravely perished in his endeavours to save the division from destruction. The gallant but unfortunate general had four horses shot from under him before he was slain, and almost every officer whose duty obliged him to be on horseback, was either killed or wounded except Washington. Amid the carnage, the presence of mind, and abilities of our hero, were conspicuous ; he rallied the troops, and, at the head of a corps of grenadiers, covered the rear of the division, and secured their retreat over the ford of Monongahela.

Anxious for the preservation of the troops, and unmindful of the fatigues he had undergone, during a sultry day, in which he had scarcely a moment of rest, he hastened to concert measures with Colonel Dunbar, who com-

manded the rear division, which had not been engaged. Neither the wilderness thro' which he was obliged to pass, the innumerable dangers that surrounded him in his progress, nor his exhausted state could prevent him from pursuing the line of his duty. He travelled during the night accompanied by two guides, and reached the British camp in safety. Thus his perseverance and wisdom saved the residue of the troops. Colonel Dunbar now assumed the chief command; and with considerable difficulty effected a retreat, but was obliged to destroy his baggage to prevent it from falling into the hands of the enemy. Washington received the most flattering marks of public approbation; but his best reward was the consciousness of his own integrity.

Soon after this transaction, the regulation of rank, which had justly been considered as a grievance by the colonial officers, was changed in consequence of a spirited remonstrance of Washington; and the Governor of Virginia rewarded this brave officer with the command of all the troops of that colony. The natural energy of his mind was now called into action; and his thoughts were continually employed in forming new plans for the protection of the frontiers.

We may form some idea of his increasing

popularity, and the high estimation in which he was held by his countrymen, from the following curious prediction. It was published in the notes of a sermon preached by the Rev. Samuel Davies, on the 17th of August, 1755, to Capt. Overton's independent company of Volunteers, raised in Hanover county, Virginia. "As a remarkable instance of patriotism, I may point out that heroic youth Colonel Washington, whom I cannot but hope Providence has hitherto preserved in so signal a manner, for some important service to his country." What renders this prophecy the more worthy of notice, is its having been delivered twenty years prior to the commencement of the war, which terminated in American Independence.

In the year 1758, Washington commanded the van brigade of the army under Gen. Forbes, and distinguished himself by the capture of Fort du Quesne. During this successful campaign, he acquired a knowledge of tactics. His frequent skirmishes with the French and Indians, in the woody regions along the frontiers taught him vigilance and circumspection, and roused that spirit of enterprise, which is ever ready to seize the crisis that leads to victory. The troops under his command were gradually inured in that most difficult kind of warfare called bush-fighting, while the activity of the

French and ferocity of the Indians were overcome by his superior valour. After the enemy had been defeated in several battles, and compelled to retreat far beyond the Colonial boundaries, General Forbes left a sufficient garrison in the different forts which he had captured along the banks of the Ohio, and returned with the army into winter quarters.

In the course of this decisive campaign, which restored the tranquility and security of the middle colonies, Washington had suffered many hardships which impaired his health. He was afflicted with an inveterate pulmonary complaint, and extremely debilitated, insomuch that in the year of 1759, he resigned his commission and retired to Mount Vernon. The Virginia line expressed their high sense of his merit, by an affectionate address on this occasion; and his answer was marked with that modesty and magnanimity which were the prominent traits of his mind.

By a due attention to regimen, in the quiet bowers of Mount Vernon, he gradually recovered from his indisposition. But, as during the tedious period of his convalescence the British arms had been victorious, his country had no more occasion for the exertion of his military talents. In 1761, he married a young widow, whose maiden name was Dandridge.

She was descended from a reputable family and two of her brothers were officers in the British navy. This lady was the widow of Colonel Custis, who had left her sole executrix to his extensive possessions, and guardian to his two children. The union of Washington with this accomplished woman was productive of their mutual felicity ; and as he incessantly pursued agricultural improvements, his taste embellished and enriched the fertile fields around Mount Vernon. Meanwhile he was appointed a magistrate, a member of the assembly of the state and a judge of the court. These honourable avocations kept the powers of his mind in a state of activity ; he attended to his civil duties with exemplary propriety, and gave a convincing proof, that the simplicity of the Farmer is homogeneal with the dignified views of the Senator.

But the time approached, in which Washington was to relinquish those honourable civil avocations, and one of the most remarkable events recorded in history obliged him to act a conspicuous part on the great theatre of the world. The American Revolution originated in the errors of a few British politicians, and the joint exertions of a number of public spirited men among the Colonists, who incited their country-men to resist parliamentary taxation.

In March 1764, a bill passed in the British Parliament, laying heavy duties on all articles imported into the Colonies from the French and other islands in the West-Indies, and ordering these duties to be paid in specie into the Exchequer of Great Britain. In the same session, another bill was formed, to restrain the currency of paper-money in the Colonies.

These acts excited the surprize and displeasure of the North Americans. They sent warm and energetic remonstrances to the Mother-country, and laid every argument before the Ministry that ingenuity could suggest, but in vain. As they had hitherto furnished their contingent in men and money, by the authority of their Representatives in the Colonial Assemblies, they asserted, that, not being represented in the British Parliament, it could have no right to tax them — Finding, however, that all their arguments were ineffectual to remove their grievances, they formed associations to prevent the use of British manufactures, till they should obtain redress.

The animosity of the Colonists, was farther increased, by the advice which they received, that the British Ministry had it in contemplation to establish stamp-duties in America, similar to those in Great Britain.

The General Assembly of Virginia was the

first that openly and formally declared against the right of Britain to lay taxes on America. Of this Assembly Washington was a member ; he most zealously opposed what he considered an encroachment on the liberties of his countrymen : and the example of this legislative body was followed by those of the other colonies.

In June, 1765, the Assembly of Massachusetts, from the conviction of the expediency of a Continental Congress, passed a resolution in favour of that measure, and sent circular letters to the several Assemblies requesting their concurrence. Accordingly, a deputation from 10 of the Colonies met at New-York, and this was the first Congress held in North America.

In consequence of a petition from this Congress to the King and both Houses of Parliament, the stamp act was repealed, to the universal joy of the Colonists, and the general satisfaction of the English, whose manufactures had suffered a considerable depression, in consequence of the American associations against their importation.

But, the Parliament, by repealing this obnoxious act, did not relinquish the idea of their right to tax the Colonies ; and the bill for laying a duty on tea, paper, painter's colours, and glass, was passed, and sent to America, in 1768. This act occasioned new discontents in the Col-

onies, especially at Boston; and tho' Parliament thought proper, in 1770, to take off those duties, except 3*d.* a pound on tea, yet even this trifling impost kept alive the jealousy of the Colonists, who denied the supremacy of the British Legislature. The troops quartered in Boston was another cause of offence to the inhabitants, and, on all occasions, they manifested an inclination to quarrel with men whom they considered inimical to their liberties.

The animosity of the people of that Colony, against their Governor, Hutchinson, was increased by the discovery that he had written letters to people in power in England, which contained a misrepresentation of the state of public affairs, and recommended coercive measures, in order to secure the obedience of the province. These letters fell into the hands of Dr. Franklin, Agent of the province, who transmitted them to Boston. The Assembly passed a petition to his Majesty, by a large majority, in which they declared their Governor and Lieutenant-Governor enemies to the Colonies, and prayed for their dismissal from office. This petition was not only rejected, but declared to be groundless and scandalous.

About this time, Dr. Franklin was dismissed from the office of Deputy Postmaster-General of America, which he held under the Crown.

But it was not merely by his transmission of the letters above mentioned that he had offended the British Ministry ; he had written two pieces in favour of America, which excited the public attention on both sides of the Atlantic. The one was entitled, " An Edict from the King of Prussia for taxing the inhabitants of Great Britain, as descendants of emigrants from his dominions ;" and the other, " Rules for reducing a great Empire to a small one." These essays were both written with his peculiar simplicity of style, and abounded with the most poignant satire.

The disputes between Great Britain and her Colonies had now existed above ten years, with intervals of tranquility. The reservation of the duty on tea, the stationing a standing army in Massachusetts, the continuance of a Board of Commissioners in Boston, and the appointing the Governors and Judges of the province, independent of the people, were the causes of that irritation which pervaded all ranks of the community.

In the year 1773, the American controversy was recommenced, in consequence of tea being sent to the Colonies by the East India Company. The Americans now perceived that the tax was likely to be enforced, and were determined to oppose the revenue system of the British Par-

liament. They considered this attempt of the East India Company as an indirect mode of taxation, and took measures to prevent the landing of the teas. One universal spirit of opposition animated the Colonists from New Hampshire to Georgia. The province of Massachusetts distinguished itself by the most violent and decisive proceedings. Three ships from England laden with tea, lay in the harbour of Boston; and the townsmen resolved to destroy it rather than suffer it to be landed. For this purpose a number of men disguised like Indians on the 18th of Dec. 1773, entered the ships and threw overboard 342 chests of tea, being the whole of their cargoes.

The Ministry now resolved to enforce their authority, and as Boston had been the principal scene of outrage, it was determined to punish that town in an exemplary manner. On the 25th of March 1774, an act was passed called the Boston Port Bill, "to discontinue the landing, and discharging, lading, and shipping of goods, wares, and merchandizes at the town of Boston, or within the harbour."

The news of this bill was received by the Bostonians with the most extravagant tokens of resentment, and during the ferment their new governor, Gen. Gage, arrived from England. This gentleman had been appointed on account

of his being an officer of reputation, and a man esteemed by the Americans, among whom he had resided many years. The first official act of his government was the removal of the assembly to Salem, a town seventeen miles distant.

Virginia again took the lead in a public avowal of its sentiments. The first day of June had been appointed for the Boston Port Act to take place, and on that day the General Assembly of Virginia enjoined a public supplication to heaven. The stile of this injunction was remarkable; the people were directed "to beseech the Diety to give them one heart and one mind, firmly to oppose every invasion of the American Rights." The assembly of Virginia recommended also to the colonies, to appoint a Congress of Delegates to deliberate on the critical state of their affairs.

Meanwhile the Bostonians were not inactive. They framed an agreement, which they called a solemn League and Covenant, by which the subscribers engaged in the most religious manner, "to discontinue all commercial intercourse with Great Britain, after the expiration of the month of August, till the late obnoxious acts were repealed, and the colony re-possessed of its charter." Resolutions of a similar nature were entered into by the other provinces; and

when General Gage attempted to counteract the covenant by a proclamation, the Americans retorted, by insisting, that the law allowed subjects to associate in order to obtain redress of their grievances.

In the month of Sept. 1774, the General Congress of all the Colonies met at Philadelphia. That body consisted of fifty-one delegates, chosen by the representatives of each province.

The first act of the Continental Congress, was their approbation of the conduct of the Bostonians, and an exhortation to them to persevere in their opposition to government, till the restoration of their charter.--They avowed their allegiance to his Majesty, and drew up a petition, in which they intreated him to grant them peace, liberty, and safety. After several resolutions tending to promote unanimity in the provinces, and after having resolved that another Congress should meet in Philadelphia on the 10th of May following, if their grievances should not be redressed, they recommended to the people the speedy nomination of new delegates, and then separated.

Meanwhile reinforcements of British troops arrived at Boston, which increased the general disaffection to such a degree, that the people were ready to rise at a moment's warning. The Colonists now began seriously to prepare for

war : embodied and trained their militia ; and to render themselves independant of foreigners for the supply of military stores, they erected mills and manufactories, for gunpowder, both in Philadelphia and Virginia.

These hostile preparations induced General Gage to fortify the neck of land which joins the town of Boston to the continent. But tho' this measure of security was justifiable on the principle of self defence, the Americans remonstrated against it with the greatest vehemence.— Instead of paying any attention to these inveſtives, the General seized the provincial ammunition and military stores at Cambridge and Charlestown. This act of hostility excited the popular rage to such a degree, that it was with the utmost difficulty the inhabitants of Massachusetts could be restrained from marching to Boston to attack the troops.

It was now evident, that the ensuing spring would be the commencement of a war of which even the most resolute dreaded the consequences. The utmost diligence, however, was used by the colonists to be provided against any attack of the British army. A list of men able to bear arms was made out in each province, and the assemblies were animated with the most lively hopes on finding that two-thirds of the men who had served in the former war, were alive, and zealous in the cause.

Washington was among the most active in raising troops. His well known intrepidity and generosity obtained him a numerous corps of volunteers ; he was appointed their commander, and soon perfected their discipline. He had also been elected a delegate from Virginia to the General Congress, and exerted all his influence to encourage a decisive opposition to British taxation.

The awful moment now approached which was to involve Great Britain and her colonies in all the horrors of a civil war. In February, 1775 the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts met at Cambridge. Several military institutions for the protection of the province were enacted ; among the remarkable of which was the minutemen. A number of the most active and expert of the New England militia were selected, who were obliged to hold themselves in readiness to obey the first summons of their officers ; and indeed their subsequent vigilance and intrepidity, fully entitled them to the above mentioned appellation.

We pass over the battles of Lexington and Bunker's-hill and come to the subject of our present memoir. Washington who was a delegate to Congress, from Virginia, was by their unanimous vote, appointed General in chief of all the American forces. They also voted him as am-

ple a salary as was in their power to bestow.—but he generously declined all pecuniary emoluments.—His reply to the President of Congress, on his nomination to the supreme command of the army, was in the following words :

“ MR. PRESIDENT,

“ Though I am truly sensible of the high honour done me in this appointment, yet I feel great distress from a consciousness that my abilities and military experience may not be equal to the extensive and important trust ; however as the Congress desire it, I will enter upon the momentous duty, and exert every power I possess in their service, and for support of the glorious cause. I beg they will accept my most cordial thanks for this distinguished testimony of their approbation.

“ But lest some unlucky event should happen unfavorable to my reputation. I beg it may be remembered by every gentleman in the room, that I this day declare, with the utmost sincerity, I do not think myself equal to the command I am honored with.

“ As to my pay, I beg leave to assure the Congress, that, as no pecuniary consideration could have tempted me to accept this arduous employment, at the expence of my domestic peace and happiness, I do not wish to make any profit from it. I will keep an exact ac-

count of my expences—those, I doubt not, they will discharge, and this is all I desire.”

This speech is a proof of that disinterestedness and modesty which were the distinguishing characteristics of Washington’s mind. In private life he was hospitable and friendly.—These social virtues, together with his tried valour, made him truly estimable in the eyes of his countrymen. His election to the supreme command was attended by no competition—every member of Congress were convinced of his integrity, and chose him as the man best qualified to raise their expectations and fix their confidence.

The appointment of Washington was attended with other promotions, namely, four major-generals, one adjutant general, and eight brigadier-generals.

On the day following, a special commission was presented to Washington by Congress. At the same time, they resolved unanimously in a full meeting, “That they would maintain and assist him, and adhere to him with their lives and fortunes, in the cause of American liberty.” In their instructions, they authorized him “to order and dispose of the army under his command as might be most advantageous for obtaining the end for which it had been raised, making it his special care, in discharge of the

great trust committed to him, that the liberties of America received no detriment."

Washington's diffidence on the acceptance of his commission was extremely natural. His comprehensive mind anticipated the numerous difficulties which must attend his employment, and he would gladly have preferred the pleasures of a rural life to all the "pride, pomp, and circumstance of a glorious war."

His taking the command of the American army was therefore a strong exertion of self-denial to an unambitious man, who enjoyed all the real blessings of life in the bosom of independence. Let us, for a moment, turn our attention to his private affairs, and we will behold him blest with the rational pleasures of a philosophical retirement, with his table overspread with plenty, and his pillow smoothed by the hand of conjugal love. Could man desire more?—Was not this the summit of human happiness? But now, when the voice of his country demands his aid, he takes the field, in her defence, with filial attachment.

In the beginning of July, Washington set out for the camp at Cambridge, in order to assume the command of the army. On his way thither, he was treated with every demonstration of respect, escorted by detachments of gentlemen who had formed volunteer associations,

and honored with public addresses of congratulation from the provincial Congress of New-York and Massachusetts.

In answer to these addresses, Washington, after declaring his high sense of the regard shewn him, added, "Be assured, that every exertion of my worthy colleagues and myself will be extended to the re-establishment of peace and harmony between the mother-country and these colonies. As to the fatal, but necessary operations of war, when we assumed the soldier, we did not lay aside the citizen; and we shall most sincerely rejoice with you in the happy hour, when the re-establishment of American liberty, on the most firm and solid foundations, shall enable us to return to our private stations, in the bosom of a free, peaceful, and happy country."

On his arrival at the camp, he was received with the joyful acclamations of the American army. He found the British troops entrenched on Bunker's-Hill, and defended by three floating batteries in Mystic river, while the Americans were entrenched on Winter-Hill, Prospect-Hill, and Roxbury, with a communication, by small posts, over an extent of ten miles. As the provincial soldiers had repaired to the camp in their ordinary clothing, the hunting shirt was adopted for the sake of uni-

formity. Washington found a large body of men, indifferently disciplined, and but badly provided with arms and ammunition. Besides, they had neither engineers, nor sufficient tools for the erection of fortifications. He also found uncommon difficulties in the organization of his army. Enterprising leaders had distinguished themselves at the commencement of hostilities, and their followers, from attachment, were not willing to be commanded by officers who, tho' appointed by Congress, were strangers to them. To subject the licentiousness of freemen to the control of military discipline, was both an arduous and delicate task. However, the genius of Washington triumphed over all difficulties. In his letter to Congress, after he had reviewed the troops, he says, "I find here excellent materials for an army—able body-men, of undoubted courage, and zealous in the cause. In the same letter, he complains of the want of ammunition, camp-equipage, and many other requisites of an army.

Washington, at the head of his troops, published a declaration, previously drawn up by Congress, expressive of their motives for taking up arms. It was written in energetic language, and contained the following remarkable passages :

"Were it possible for men, who exercise their

reason, to believe that the Divine Author of our existence intended a part of the human race to hold an absolute property in, and unbounded power over others, marked out by his infinite goodness and wisdom as the objects of a legal domination, never rightfully resistable, however severe and oppressive, the inhabitants of these Colonies might, at least, require from the Parliament of Great Britain some evidence, that this dreadful authority over them has been granted to that body. But a reverence for our great Creator, principles of humanity, and the dictates of common sense, must convince all those who reflect upon the subject, that government was instituted to promote the welfare of mankind, and ought to be administered for the attainment of that end.

“ The Legislature of great Britain, however, stimulated by an inordinate passion for power, not only unjustifiable, but which they know to be peculiarly reprobated by the Constitution of that kingdom, and despairing of success in any mode of contest where regard should be had to truth, law, or right, have at length, deserting those, attempted to effect their cruel and impolitic purpose of enslaving these Colonies by violence, and have thereby rendered it necessary for us to close with their last appeal from Reason to Arms. Yet, however blinded that as

sembly may be, by their intemperate rage for unlimited domination, so to slight justice and the opinion of mankind, we esteem ourselves bound by obligations of respect to the rest of the world, to make known the justice of our cause."

This bold and explicit manifesto was dated at Philadelphia, the 6th of July, 1775, and subscribed by John Hancock, President of Congress, and Charles Thomson, Secretary.

A general spirit of unanimity pervaded the colonies at this momentous period. Men of all ranks and ages were animated with martial ardour, even religious prejudices were overcome by patriotic enthusiasm. Several young men of the Quaker persuasion joined the military associations; and the number of men in arms throughout the colonies was very considerable.

Notwithstanding these warlike preparations, the Americans unanimously protested that they took up arms only to obtain a redress of grievances; and that a separation from the parent state was an object foreign to their wishes.—The rancour, however, that accompanies a civil war, was productive of mutual réproaches, and the slightest proof often was keenly felt as proceeding from those who were once friends.

An instance of this nature happened at Boston, while invested by the provincial army, and produced the memorable correspondence be-

tween the respective commanders. The last letter, written by General Washington to General Gage, exhibited a lively portrait of his character and principles as well as those of his countrymen.—It contained the following striking passages :

“ Whether British or American mercy, fortitude and patience, are most pre-eminent ; whether our virtuous citizens, whom the hand of tyranny has forced into arms to defend their property and freedom, or the mercenary and lawless instruments of domination, avarice, revenge, best deserve the appellation of rebels, and the punishment of that cord, which your affected clemency has foreborne to inflict ; whether the authority under which I act, is usurped, or founded upon the principles of liberty ; such considerations are altogether foreign to the subject of our correspondence—I purposely avoid all political disquisition ; nor shall I avail myself of those advantages, which the sacred cause of my country, of liberty and human nature give me over you ; much less shall I stoop to retort any invective.

“ You affect Sir, to despise all rank not derived from the same source with your own. I cannot conceive one more honourable than that which flows from the uncorrupted choice of a brave and free People, the purest source and

original fountain of all power. Far from thinking it a plea for cruelty, a mind of true magnanimity, and enlarged ideas, would comprehend and respect it."

This celebrated letter was by the Americans represented as the most perfect model of the style becoming the Commander in Chief, and the occasion to which it was adapted; nay, it was commended in different parts of Europe, and even in England, as the most proper answer he could make.

In September, General Gage sailed for England; and the command of the British army devolved on General Howe.

Meanwhile, the army under Washington continued the blockade of Boston so closely, as to prevent all intercourse between that town and country. The provincial force was formed into three grand divisions, of which General Ward commanded the right wing, General Lee the left, the centre was commanded by Washington. The army was arranged by General Gates, by whose exertions military discipline was gradually and successfully introduced: the officers and privates were taught the necessity of a due subordination, and became expert in the different manœuvres that constitute the regularity of an army.

One insuperable obstacle to the provincial

army's arriving at perfect discipline was the shortness of the time for which the men had been enlisted. It had been limited to six months, and no part of the troops were engaged longer than the 1st of Jan, 1776. To prevent the English General from taking advantage of this circumstance, Washington was obliged occasionally to call in the militia when the disbanded men left the camp, in order that the works should be properly defended.

Ticonderoga had been taken by Colonel Arnold on the 10th of May. This important fortress is situated on a promontary, formed at the junction of Lake George and Lake Champlain and consequently it is the key of communication between New York and Canada. Arnold, flushed with success, wrote a letter to Congress, in which he offered to reduce the whole province of Canada with 2000 men. From the impetuosity of his disposition, he advised the adoption of an offensive war, but as Congress did not wish to widen the breach between Great Britain and the Colonies, and an accommodation was their wish, they deferred the invasion of Canada.

Sir Guy Carleton, the governor of that province, planned a scheme for the recovery of Ticonderoga and Crown Point, another fort taken by the Americans. He had been invested

with full powers to embody the Canadians, and march them against the enemy ; however they were very unwilling to engage in the contest, but he hoped on the arrival of reinforcements, to compel them to act. Meantime he had collected a numerous body of Indians ; his troops though few, were well disciplined, and the United Colonies had reason to dread a man of his intrepidity and abilities.

When Congress were informed of these exertions in Canada, they thought it expedient to make a vigorous attack upon that province, in order to prevent the invasion of their north-western frontier. In consequence of this determination, an army of 3000 men under the commands of Generals Schuyler and Montgomery, were sent to effect the conquest of Canada — They proceeded to Lake Champlain, and thence by water to St. John's the first British post in Canada. The Americans landed and besieged the fortress, which was bravely defended by the garrison under Major Preston. Illness obliged General Schuyler to retire to Albany, and the sole command of the troops devolved on Montgomery, who prosecuted the siege with such vigour, that in a few days he became master of the place. After the reduction of St. John's, Montgomery advanced to Montreal with his victorious army. On his approach to that town;

the few British forces which composed the garrison, repaired for safety on board the shipping, in hopes of escaping down the river, but they were prevented by a body of continental troops under the command of Colonel Easton, who was stationed at the point of Sorel river.—General Prescott with several officers, and 120 privates surrendered themselves prisoners on terms of capitulation; and the American General, after leaving a garrison in Montreal, advanced with a rapid march towards the capital of Canada.

While Montgomery was thus pursuing the career of victory, the province of Canada was invaded in another quarter by an enemy no less enterprising and intrepid than himself. A detachment of 1000 men was sent by Gen. Washington, from the American army at Cambridge. This expedition was conducted by Colonel Arnold, who led his troops by an unexplored route thro' the wilderness. The difficulties encountered by this detachment during 31 days, were almost insurmountable. They proceeded in boats by the river Kennebeck, and were obliged to work upwards against its impetuous current. After suffering various hardships, and losing above 1-3d of his men, by sickness and desertion, Colonel Arnold arrived at the inhabited part of Canada, after a march of 6 weeks.

The appearance of Colonel Arnold before Quebec threw the inhabitants into the greatest consternation ; but, as in his march it had been impossible to bring any cannon, he could only seize the avenues that led to the city, in order to cut off supplies and provisions, and await the arrival of the troops under Montgomery.

On the 5th of December, 1775, Montgomery arrived in sight of Quebec. He summoned it in due form, but the garrison fired at his flag of truce, and refused to admit his message. As the depth of winter approached, he was convinced of the necessity of either raising the siege, or taking the city by escalade.

General Carleton made such exertions as evinced the most determined resistance, and his example animated the courage of the garrison. The town was remarkably strong both by nature and art, and the number of the besiegers was inconsiderable ; besides the vigilance of the Governor was such, that every part was guarded with the greatest circumspection.

Montgomery, on the other hand, possessed all those romantic ideas of military glory which prevailed in the days of chivalry ; and this love of enterprize was cherished by an intrepidity which made him overlook all perils ; he was conscious that his troops would follow with alacrity wherever he should lead, and he determined

to take the city by storm, or perish in the attempt.

On the 31st of December, 1775, he advanced to the attack by break of day. In order to incite emulation among the Provincial troops, there were two attacks, one by the New-England-men headed by Arnold, and the other by the New-York-men, whom the General led in person.

The way thro' which Montgomery and his party had to pass was narrow, and as he knew the most desperate exertions of valour would be required, he had selected a number of his most resolute men for this enterprize. He advanced amidst a heavy shower of snow, and, having seized the first barrier, he rushed forward at the head of his party, and hastened to close in upon the enemy. The second barrier, which led directly to the gates of the lower town, was defended by a strong body of the garrison, who were posted there with several pieces of cannon ready loaded—Montgomery advanced, with a rapid movement, and was received with a volley of musketry and grape-shot, that, in an instant, killed and wounded almost the whole of his party. He fell himself, with his principal officers. The troops were so disconcerted by the loss of their General, that they retreated. In the mean time, Colonel Arnold was engaged in a furious assault on the opposite side of the town. He attacked and carried a barrier defended with cannon, but

this success was attended with a great loss of men, and he received a wound himself, which made it necessary to carry him off the field of battle. The officers on whom the command devolved continued the assault, and took possession of another barrier; but, the besieged, who now perceived the inconsiderable number of the assailants, sallied from a gate that opened towards their rear, and attacked them in turn. The Provincials were now hemmed in from all possibility of a retreat, and exposed to a tremendous fire from the walls; yet, in this dreadful situation, they maintained the contest 3 hours before they surrendered.

Tho' this expedition had failed in the great object, yet it effectually prevented any invasion from that quarter, a circumstance that had been apprehended by Congress.

The southern provinces now became involved in the contest, especially Virginia, where the disputes of the governor, Lord Dunmore, with the Assembly, after repeated aggravations on both sides, terminated in open hostilities. He had retired from Williamsburg to Norfolk, where he was joined by a considerable number of loyalists; but, after several skirmishes, he was obliged to retire to the shipping that lay in the river adjacent to the town. As it was now in the possession of the Americans, they not only refused to

supply the people on board with provisions, but annoyed them by a number of riflemen; who were placed in houses near the ships, and who inhumanly aimed at, and killed several persons on board. Exasperated at their conduct, Lord Dunmore ordered a party to land under cover of a man of war, and set fire to the town. Thus Norfolk was reduced to ashes, and the loss was estimated at 300,000/.

Meantime, the Governors of the two Carolinas were expelled by the people, and obliged to take refuge on board the British men of war.

Thus at the conclusion of the year 1775, the whole of the British Colonies, except the town of Boston were united against the Mother-country.

The British troops at Boston had endured a tedious blockade with their characteristic fortitude. All communication with the country was prevented, and the garrison suffered many inconveniences from the want of necessaries. They felt the severities of a winter campaign in a rigorous climate, especially those who were stationed at Bunker's-Hill, where they lay exposed to winds and snows almost intolerable to a British constitution.

The Provincials, in the mean time, were well supplied with necessaries in their encampment before Boston. Here Washington presided, and,

by his prudent regulations, the troops had all the comforts of good tents, bedding, and fresh provisions.

An intense frost usually begins throughout New England about the latter end of December, when the harbour of Boston, and all the rivers in the environs of that town, are generally frozen to a depth of ice sufficient to bear a great weight. Washington proposed to take possession not only of the town, but also to take or destroy all the shipping in the harbour, and by this decisive enterprize, put a conclusion to all the hopes of Great Britain in this quarter. His troops were eager to distinguish themselves by this achievement, and, if requisite, a greater force could soon be collected to second their efforts. This winter, however, was unusually mild, and, by preventing the operations of the Provincials, both they and the garrison were obliged to remain inactive.

In the mean time, Mr. Penn, who had bro't over the last petition from Congress, was examined at the bar of the House of Lords. This gentleman had been Governor of Pennsylvania, he was personally acquainted with most of the members of Congress, and was qualified to give the most authentic information respecting the temper and inclinations of the Americans. It appeared from his testimonies, that the charge of aiming at Independence, which had been imputed to Congress, was unfounded. They had been fairly elected, were men of character and abilities, the

Colonies had the highest confidence in their integrity, and were governed by their decisions.

From his account, it appeared that Pennsylvania, alone, was able to raise 60,000 men, 20,000 of whom had already enrolled themselves to serve without pay, and were armed and embodied before his departure from the continent. Beside, they had, in imitation of the Colony of Massachusetts, instituted a corps of minute-men, amounting to 5000.

After a tedious debate in both Houses of Parliament, the petition of Congress was rejected, all attempts to reconciliation were suspended, the standard of defiance seemed now to be raised, and both parties appeared determined to make the last appeal to arms.

When the news of this rejection of the American petition reached the camp before Boston, the troops expressed the greatest indignation. As Georgia had joined the confederacy, the Americans now changed their colours from a plain red ground, to 13 stripes, alternately red and white, to denote the number of the United Colonies.

Washington exerted his skill and activity, in order to compel the British either to surrender or evacuate Boston before any succours could arrive from England. On the 2d of March, 1776, he opened a battery on the west side of the town, and bombarded it.—This attack was supported by a tremendous cannonade ; and, on the 5th, another battery was opened on the eastern shore. The

garrison sustained this dreadful bombardment with the greatest fortitude ; it lasted 14 days without intermission, when General Howe, finding the place no longer tenable, resolved to embark for Halifax.

The evacuation of Boston was not interrupted by the Provincials, lest the British troops should set it on fire.

When the Americans took possession of Boston, they found a multitude of valuable articles which were unavoidably left behind by the British army. The principal of these were artillery and ammunition ;—but the most valuable booty was a large quantity of woollens and linens, of which the Provincials stood in the most pressing need.

Washington now directed his attention to the fortifications of Boston. He employed a number of foreign engineers to superintend the construction of new works, and so eager were the people in the prosecution of this business, that every effective man in the town, without distinction, devoted 2 days of the week to its completion.

As Washington was uncertain of the destination of the British fleet and army which had left Boston, and as New York lay exposed to any sudden attack, he detached several of his best regiments, under General Lee, for the defence of that city.

Mean while, a small fleet, under the command of Sir Peter Parker, and a body of troops under Generals Cornwallis, Clinton, and Vaughan, sailed for Charleston, the capital of South-Carolina. After a violent, but unsuccessful attack in which the fleet received considerable damage the expedition was abandoned.

On the 4th of July, 1776, the Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, formally renounced all connection with Great Britain, and declared themselves independent. They also published a manifesto, stating a list of grievances, which, notwithstanding their repeated petitions, remained unredressed. For these reasons, they determined on a final separation from the Mother-country, and to hold the people of Great Britain as the rest of mankind, "enemies in war, in peace friends." This celebrated declaration of Independence concluded as follows :

"WE, the Representatives of the United States of America, in general Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of the Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that the United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, Free, and Independent States, and that they are absolved from all allegiance to the

British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is and ought to be, totally dissolved ; and that, as Free and Independent States, they have full power to make war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour.”

This formal renunciation of allegiance to Great Britain, was followed by the greatest preparations for war throughout the United States.

Washington took every precaution for defensive operations, by erecting forts, and stationing troops at the most vulnerable points. The nature of the country was peculiarly favourable to defence. New-England, especially, presented many natural barriers, consisting of hills and mountains, intersected by rivers, and interspersed with woods and precipices—several defiles, skirted by impenetrable forests—while majestic rivers, flowing with impetuous currents, seemed to preclude the invader.

General Howe resolved to quit Halifax, and proceed to New-York, where he intended to wait for the reinforcements from England. He

failed about the middle of June, and at the end of the month arrived at Sandy-Hook, a point of land which stands at the entrance of a large body of water, formed by the confluence of several rivers, and which is surrounded by New-York, Staten, and Long-Island.

About the middle of July, Lord Howe arrived with a fleet and army from England. He sent a circular letter to the Governors who had been displaced by their respective provinces, in which he explained, that he was impowered, in conjunction with his brother, to grant general or particular pardons to all those who were willing to return to their allegiance to the King of Great Britain. Congress ordered this letter to be published in all the news-papers, in order that the people of America might know the terms on which they were to act, viz. either unconditional submission, or a bold and manly resistance to despotic power ; and, that those who relied on the justice or moderation of the British Ministry, might be fully convinced, that they must trust to their own valour for the preservation of their liberties.

Lord Howe next sent a letter to the American Commander in Chief, but, as it was directed to "George Washington, Esq." the General refused to receive it, as not directed to him agreeably to his station. His conduct, on this

occasion, received the unanimous approbation of Congress.

To obviate this difficulty, Adjutant-General Paterfon was sent by General Howe with a letter directed to "George Washington, &c. &c. &c." He was politely received, and immediately admitted to the presence of the American General. The Adjutant expressed much concern on account of the difficulties that had arisen from the superscription of the former letter, and hoped that the *et ceteras* would remove all obstruction to an intercourse between the Commissioners and General Washington. To this he replied, "that a letter written to a person invested with a public character should specify it, otherwise it could not be distinguished from a letter on private business: true it was, the *et ceteras* implied every thing, but it was no less true, that they implied any thing."

The most interesting part of the conversation was that respecting the power of the Commissioners, whom the Adjutant said, were ready to exert themselves to the utmost to effect a reconciliation. The General replied, that it did not appear that these powers consisted in any more than granting pardons; but as America had committed no offence, she asked no forgiveness, and was only defending her unquestionable rights.

From this conference, it was evident, that nothing but a decided superiority in the field could induce the Americans to relax the resolutions which they had taken with so much deliberation and solemnity.

The firmness of Congress had inspired the provincials with enthusiasm. That resolute body had declared America independant in the very face of the British fleet and army, while the first was casting anchor in sight of New-York, and the reinforcements from England were making the second landing on Staten Island.

An attack upon Long-Island being determined on by the British commanders, the fleet covered the descent of the army, which effected a landing without any opposition, on the 22d of August, 1776. General Putnam, with a large body of troops, lay encamped and strongly fortified, on a northern peninsula on the opposite shore with a range of hills between the armies, the principal pass of which was at a village called Flat Bush.

Large detachments of the American army occupied the hills and passes. The right of the British army was commanded by General Clinton, Lord Percy, and Lord Cornwallis; the centre, composed of Hessians, under General Heister, was posted at Flat Bush; and the left under General Grant, was stationed near the sea shore.

Early in the morning of the 27th, the engagement was begun by the Hessians, and a heavy fire of cannon and musquetry was continued on both sides for several hours. One of the passes which lay at a distance, had been neglected by the Americans, which gave an opportunity to the right division of the British army to pass the hills, and attack them in the rear.

The Americans, when apprized of their danger, retreated towards their camp, but they were intercepted, and driven back into the woods.— Here they were met by the Hessians, and thus exposed to the fire of two parties. No way of escape now remained, but by forcing their way thro' the ranks of the enemy, and thus regaining their camp. This numbers of them effected, but by far the greater part were either killed or taken prisoners.

Washington had crossed over from New-York in the height of the engagement, but he came too late to retrieve the fortune of the day. He had the mortification to see some of his best troops killed or taken, without being able to afford them any assistance, but he used his utmost exertions to save those that remained by a well conducted retreat.

The victory was completé: the Americans lost upwards of 3000 men, including 2000 killed, and 1000 taken prisoners, among whom were three generals—On the side of the British the loss in killed and wounded was only about 500. Among

the provincials that fell, a regiment from Maryland was particularly regretted. It consisted wholly of young men of the best families in that province. They behaved with the most admirable heroism: they were every one killed or wounded, and thus perished in the bloom of youth.

After this defeat, Washington did not think it expedient to risk another action against a numerous army of veterans, well provided with artillery, and elated with their recent victory. New-York required to be strenghtened, and the emergency did not admit of a moment's delay; for should the British fleet be able to station itself between the camp and that city, all would be inevitably lost.

In this extremity, Washington exerted all his characteristic vigilance and circumspection. In the night of the 29th August, favoured by darkness, and in the most profound silence, he conveyed his troops on board the boats and landed them on the opposite shore. He also carried off as much of their baggage, military stores and artillery, as the time would permit. This retreat was conducted with so much secrecy, that with the dawn, the British troops were surprised to see the rear guard of the American army in the boats and beyond the reach of danger.

When Washington returned with the army to New-York, he ordered batteries to be erected on every spot whence they could annoy the ships of

war, which were now stationed in that part of the river which faces the city.

The men of war were continually engaged with those batteries some of which they silenced, and enabled the British troops to proceed up the river, to a bay about three miles distant. Here the troops landed under the cannon of the fleet, and marched directly towards the city, on which Washington retreated with his men to the north of York-Island. On this occasion, he lost a great part of his artillery and military stores, yet he engaged the British troops wherever he could make an advantageous stand.

Washington had been particularly careful to fortify the pass called King's bridge, and had chosen this position for his army with the greatest judgment. He could advance or retire at pleasure, without any danger of being cut off in case of a defeat. Though he was determined not to risk a general engagement, yet in order to inure his troops to actual service, and at the same time annoy the enemy, he employed them in continual skirmishes, in consequence of which they gradually became expert soldiers.

It was now determined to force the Americans to a greater distance, lest others of their emissaries should engage in an attempt to destroy the city.—Accordingly, General Howe left a sufficient garrison at New York, and embarked his army in flat bottomed boats, by which they were conveyed thro' the dangerous passage call-

ed Hell-Gate and landed near the town of West Chester, on the continent.—After having fresh reinforcements, the Royal army made such movements as threatened to distress the Americans, by cutting of their supplies of provisions from Connecticut, and thus force them to an engagement.

Washington held a council of war with his officers, in which it was resolved to quit their present position and extend the army in a long but a well secured line. This the general accomplished, by keeping the Bronx, a river of considerable depth, in front, between the two armies; with the North river on his rear.

On the 28th of October, at break of day, the British troops divided into two columns, advanced towards the White Plains, an extent of high ground, full of craggy hills and defiles.

The Americans maintained their ground in front till noon, when they were attacked with such vigour by the British army, that they were compelled to retire to their intrenchments.

During the night, Washington, ever intent on the defence and preservation of his army, ordered several additional works to be thrown up in front of the lines, in consequence of which the English general thought it imprudent to attack him till the arrival of reinforcements.

On mature deliberation, however, Washington thought it adviseable to retreat: his camp was broken up on the 1st of November, and he

retired, with his army, into a mountainous country, called the Township of New-castle. By these judicious movements, he avoided a general action. His system was, to harrass the enemy, and habituate his men to danger, so that, when the emergency required it, they might be able to act with energy.

When General Howe found that all his attempts to bring the enemy to an action were ineffectual, he turned his attention to the reduction of Forts Washington and Lee. A division of his army advanced to King's Bridge, from which the Americans withdrew into Fort Washington, which was immediately invested. This fort was situated on the western side of New-York island, in the vicinity of the city, and nearly opposite to Fort Lee, which had been lately erected on the other side of the water, in the province of Jersey. Its chief strength was in its situation, it was defended by 3000 men, well supplied with artillery. On the 16th of November, this fort was attacked by the British army, in four divisions, and, after a resistance of some hours, the garrison was overpowered, and obliged to surrender themselves prisoners of war.

In order to obtain the full command of the North-River, it was also necessary to reduce Fort Lee. For this purpose, Lord Cornwallis crossed the river, landed on the Jersey shore, and marched with all possible expedition to surprize the garrison. Being apprized of his approach

they evacuated the fort, leaving all their artillery and warlike stores to the enemy. Thus both the Jerseys were laid open to the incursions of the British troops. They penetrated so far, that their winter-quarters extended from New-Brunswick to the river Delaware: and so great was the consternation of the Americans, that, had the British army found a sufficient number of boats to ferry them over the Delaware, it is highly probable that Philadelphia would have fallen into their hands.

Meanwhile, Sir Henry Clinton undertook an expedition to Rhode-Island, and became master of that province, without the loss of a man. The affairs of the Americans also wore an inauspicious aspect on their northern frontiers, where General Arnold was defeated by General Carleton, and compelled to retire from Crown-Point to Ticonderoga.

The American army was now almost disbanded. As the time for which the soldiers had enlisted was only a twelve-month, at the expiration of that period, having fulfilled their agreement, they returned home, in consequence of which, General Washington found his army decreased from 30,000 to 3,000 men. To assist the Commander in Chief as much as possible, General Lee had collected a body of forces in the North, but, on his way Southward, having imprudently lodged at some distance from the troops, he was made prisoner by a party of British light dragoons, who brought him to New-York.

The capture of General Lee was a heavy loss to the Americans. His professional knowledge was great both in the theory and practice of tactics; he was full of activity, fertile in expedients, and of a most intrepid and enterprising disposition.

Congress now exerted themselves to retrieve their losses, and to recruit their army. They were furnished with a just plea for altering their mode of enlisting men: they ordered a new army to be levied, of which the soldier should be bound to serve 3 years, or during the continuance of the war. The most liberal encouragement was to be given to recruits.—Twenty dollars was allowed to every soldier, as bounty, besides an allotment of lands, at the end of the war, to all that served, and to the families of those who should lose their lives in the service of their country.

All the provinces exerted themselves in this season of universal danger, and hastened to send whatever reinforcements could be raised to their army that lay in the vicinity of Philadelphia.

Exclusive of the dread of being exposed to a victorious enemy, the Americans were particularly apprehensive of the Hessians, and other Germans, who had, on every occasion, committed the most barbarous outrages. Those ferocious mercenaries appropriated every thing they could lay their hands upon, and plundered a peo-

ple who not only detested but despised them for their meanness and rapacity.

As the British troops lay cantoned on the banks of the Delaware, and only waited till the frost would enable them to cross it, the Americans thought it advisable to remove their Congress to Baltimore, in Maryland. Meanwhile, General Washington continued to watch over the safety of his country ; his mind was continually occupied with new plans for the protection of his beloved America ; and he beheld, with filial solicitude, the dangers that threatened her liberties.

The British army now occupied a chain of towns and villages throughout the heart of the Jerseys, and had extended their quarters to the banks of the Delaware. General Washington resolved to make some attempts on those divisions of the enemy that lay nearest Philadelphia, and, if possible, relieve it from the danger to which it was exposed.

A corps of Hessians lay at Trenton, another at Bordenton, some miles lower down, and a third at Burlington. These towns were on the opposite bank of the Delaware, and the last within 20 miles of Philadelphia. The Hessians, from a confidence in their military superiority, became inattentive to the motions of the Americans, and were wholly engaged with those licentious outrages that had rendered them odious to all the inhabitants.

Washington prepared to surprize the enemy in their quarters. Accordingly, he formed his

army into three divisions—the first was to cross the Delaware at Trenton ferry—the second below Bordenton—and the third he commanded in person, accompanied by Generals Sullivan and Greene. This division consisted of 3000 of the best men in the American service, with a train of 20 field pieces. On the 25th of December, Washington marched at the head of his division, to a ferry some miles above Trenton, with an intention to pass it at midnight, which would enable him to arrive at Trenton with the dawn.

It is impossible to contemplate the progress of this little army of patriots without emotion. As they march in solemn silence, without one friendly ray to guide their footsteps, what must be their sensations? On the success of their enterprize depends the freedom and happiness of innumerable millions yet unborn—on its failure awaits every evil that can appal the heart. The virtuous matron—the innocent child—the chaste virgin, all depend for protection on this heroic band. As they proceed, their bosoms throb with anxiety, while all the ardour of the soldier arises to overcome apprehension; neither the rigour of a winter's night, nor the certainty of perils they must face can deter them from their purpose. Their leader, who, like an eagle driven from her nest, still hovers about its young, what are his thoughts!—his noble heart forbodes success, he anticipates victory; and, while

He feels the glow of heroism, his fortitude is prepared to brave even defeat itself.

In consequence of the delay occasioned by the difficulty in breaking the ice, it was four o'clock in the morning before Washington could land his troops, with their artillery on the Jersey shore. He then formed his men into two grand divisions; one of which he ordered to proceed by the lower road, and he led the other by the upper road to Trenton. Though it was now eight o'clock, the enemy did not discover the approach of the Americans till they were attacked by Washington's division, and in three minutes afterwards the lower part of the town was assailed by the other detachment. Colonel Ralle, who commanded the Hessians, made every effort that could be expected from a brave veteran; but he was mortally wounded, his troops were completely surrounded, and to the number of 1000 men laid down their arms.

This victory may be considered as one of the most fortunate events that befel the Americans during the war. Religious individuals attributed this success to the interposition of Divine Providence, that had suffered America to be reduced to the extreme of distress, in order to teach them not to place their reliance on their own strength, but to look to an Omnipotent Power for protection.

Washington repassed the Delaware, and his return to Philadelphia with such a considerable

number of prisoners, was both pleasing and unexpected. To surprize a body of veterans, and defeat them in their own quarters, was an achievement that excited the liveliest emotions of admiration in the breasts of the Americans. They were now emulous to second the efforts of a General who had so nobly effected their defence ; men of energy and influence were dispatched in all directions to rouse the militia, and about 1500 of the American troops, whose engagement was nearly expired, agreed to serve six weeks longer for a gratuity of ten dollars to each.

When the Hessian prisoners were secured, Washington again crossed the Delaware, and took possession of Trenton. Several detachments of the British assembled at Princeton, where they were joined by the army from Brunswick, commanded by Lord Cornwallis. This general now marched to Trenton, and attacked the Americans on the 2d of January, 1777, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The vanguard of the Americans was compelled to retreat, but the pursuing enemy was checked by some fieldpieces which were posted on the opposite bank of Sandpink Creek. Thus two armies, on which the success or failure of the American Revolution depended, were crowded into the village of Trenton, and only separated by a creek in many places fordable. The British army discontinued their operations, and lay on their arms in readiness to

make another attack next morning.—Meanwhile Washington ordered the baggage to be silently removed, and having left fires and patrols in his camp to deceive the enemy, he led his army during the obscurity of the night, and by a circuitous route reached Princeton.

Washington had held a council of war with his officers, in which this movement had been determined on, as the most likely way to preserve the city of Philadelphia from being captured by the British army. He reached Princeton early in the morning, and would have surrounded three regiments of British Infantry that were stationed there, had not a detachment that was marching to Trenton descried his troops, and dispatched couriers to alarm their fellow soldiers.

On their approach to Princeton, the centre of the Americans was charged by a party of the British troops, and compelled to retreat. In this emergency, Washington rode forward; he placed himself between his flying troops and the enemy. The Americans encouraged by his exhortations and example, rallied and attacked the British in turn; and tho' Washington was for some moments between two fires, he providentially escaped without a wound. During this contest, the British troops displayed the most invincible valour. One of the three regiments commanded by Colonel Mawhood, undismayed by the superiority of the Americans in point of

numbers charged them with their bayonets, forced their way through their ranks, and marched forward to Maidenhead; the other two regiments retired in excellent order, and retreated to Brunswick.

The British General was so much disconcerted at these unexpected manœuvres of Washington, that he evacuated Trenton, and retired with his whole force to Brunswick !

Thus, in the space of a month, all that part of the Jerseys which lies between Brunswick and Delaware, was over-run by the British troops, and recovered by the Americans. Washington stationed troops in all the important places which he had regained, and the campaign of 1776 closed with few advantages to the British army, except the acquisition of New-York.

During these hostile operations, both armies had suffered great hardships. Many of the American soldiers were destitute of shoes, and their naked feet were often wounded by the inequalities of the frozen ground, insomuch that their footsteps were marked with blood. Their Clothing was too slight for the rigorous season ; there was scarcely a tent in the whole army, yet so enthusiastically were they attached to their general that they underwent those hardships without repining. Washington merited this generous confidence ; his benignity to his troops, the cheerfulness with which he participated their inconveniences and dangers, and the heroism which

he displayed in the heat of action, commanded their veneration. In the actions at Trenton and Princeton, he united the stratagem of Hannibal with the intrepidity of Caesar ; while his success animated the hopes, and roused the energies of the friends of American Independence.

Tho' vested with extraordinary powers to raise troops, he found it very difficult to keep those he had together. A few were influenced, by the persuasions of their officers, to remain and defend the common cause, but the major part of the army were induced to serve by their attachment to their general. Indeed, the high estimation in which he was held by his country-men, was of the greatest efficacy on many occasions, and now it absolutely prevented the troops from disbanding themselves.

The recruits supplied by the several provinces fell short of the intended number ; yet while the British troops were detained at N. York, Washington received numerous reinforcements. He now moved from his winter encampment at Morristown, to the high lands about Middle-Brook, in the vicinity of Brunswick. In this strong position he threw up works along the front of his lines, but his principal advantage was the difficulty to approach his camp, the ground being so judiciously occupied as to expose an enemy to every kind of danger in an attack. On the one side he covered the Jerseys, and on the other he observed the motions of the British army at Brunswick of which he commanded a full prospect.

Many stratagems were employed by the British General to draw Washington from his strong situation, but without effect, so that it was found necessary to make an attempt on Philadelphia by sea.

On the 23d of July, the British fleet sailed from Sandy Hook, with 36 battalions of British and Hessian infantry, a regiment of light dragoons, and a corps of American Loyalists on board. After a tedious navigation, they went up the river Elk as far as was practicable. Here the army landed, without opposition, on the 35th of August. Part of the troops were left to guard the stores, while General Howe proceeded, with the main body, to the head of the Elk.

When Washington received information that the British fleet had sailed up the Chesapeake, he marched with all possible expedition to the defence of Philadelphia. His army, amounting to 12,000 men, passed thro' that city to meet the British forces, which consisted of 15,000. He encamped on the Brandywine Creek, about midway from the Elk to Philadelphia, and sent detachments to harass the British army on their march.

On the approach of the enemy, Washington retired to the side of the Creek next Philadelphia, with a determination to dispute the passage. On the 11th of September, the royal army advanced to the attack at day-break, and after a well contested battle, which lasted till night the Ameri-

eans were defeated with the loss of 1000 killed and wounded, besides 500 taken prisoners. On the side of the conquerers, the loss did not exceed 500. The victory was so complete, that darkness alone prevented the pursuit and consequent destruction or capture of the whole provincial army. The greatest valour had been displayed by the officers and soldiers on both sides. Among the American troops who distinguished themselves most, were the Virginians, who, from their affection for Washington, had on all occasions evinced the greatest intrepidity and enthusiasm.

Immediately after the battle the Americans retired to Chester, whence Washington wrote an account of his defeat to the president of Congress. His letter is dated 12 o'clock at night, and is perhaps the most faithful picture ever given, of the reflections of a great mind amid disaster and difficulty. His troops tho' defeated were not dispirited, and they considered their misfortune rather as the consequence of superior skill on the side of their enemies, than as proceeding from any defect of valour on theirs.

Congress, which had returned from Baltimore to Philadelphia, were now obliged to retire a second time. They went first to Lancaster, and afterwards to York-Town.

General Howe, at the head of the vanguard of his army entered Philadelphia in triumph on the 26th of September, and the main body of the

British army encamped in the vicinity of the city. The American army was posted at Skippach Creek sixteen miles distant. When Washington received the intelligence that the British army was divided, he resolved to surprise the camp of the principal division at German Town—Accordingly, on the 3d of October, in the evening, he marched in great silence, and about 3 o'clock in the morning he reached the British camp, and immediately made the requisite dispositions for an attack. The patrols discovered his approach, and the troops were called to arms.

The Americans assailed the camp with the greatest intrepidity, but they were received with such bravery, that, after a very hot action, they were repulsed, and compelled to retreat with considerable loss.

When the news that Philadelphia was in possession of the royal army reached the northern colonies, they sent a reinforcement of 4000 of their best men to Washington. On their arrival, he advanced within 14 miles of the city, and fixed himself in a strong encampment at White Marsh. The British general marched out of Philadelphia in the beginning of December, to afford Washington an opportunity of coming to a general engagement, but he was determined to act merely on the defensive. Finding that he could not provoke the enemy to engage, General Howe returned to the city on the 8th of December, and his army went into winter quarters.

Washington now removed his camp to Valley Forge on the banks of the Schuylkill, about 15 miles from Philadelphia. In this strong position he could observe every motion of the British army. Huts were erected, in order to protect his army from the rigour of winter. The willingness with which the troops consented to undergo the various hardships of so uncomfortable a situation, was a proof of the warmth of their attachment to their General, and their determination to defend their country.

While the British army were thus successful in the middle colonies, more important and decisive events happened in the northern provinces. General Burgoyne was sent at the head of a veteran army, to make a vigorous campaign upon the lakes and in the adjoining provinces. He first took possession of Ticonderoga, then crossed Lake George, and encamped on the banks of the Hudson near Saratoga. Here his progress was checked by the Americans under General Gates : and after two severe actions, he was forced to surrender on the 17th of October, 1777. This event diffused an universal joy throughout the United States. The European nations, and France in particular, who from prejudice or envy, had so long been desirous of the downfall of British grandeur, received this news with open exultation. Indeed, several individuals in France had exerted themselves in favour of the Americans. A number of brave and experien-

ced officers of the Irish brigade volunteered in the cause of the British Colonies, against their parent State ; and even some of the young nobility of France were emulous to distinguish themselves on this occasion. The most conspicuous of these, were the Marquis de la Fayette ; Roche du Fermoy, who served in the army that acted against General Burgoyne : De Coudray, a French officer of rank ; and Baron St. Ovary.

By the assistance of these auxiliaries, the Americans daily improved in discipline, and the successful close of the campaign on the frontiers, cheered them with the most pleasing expectations respecting the issue of the war.

On the 6th of February, 1778, a treaty of alliance between France and America was signed by the contracting parties. Washington appointed a day for the whole army to celebrate this event, and it was observed with the greatest military pomp.

In May, General Howe took his departure for England, and the chief command of the British army devolved on Sir Henry Clinton.

The English commissioners, appointed by the British Ministry to attempt a reconciliation with the Colonies, arrived at New-York in the beginning of June, but before they could receive an answer from Congress, General Clinton evacuated Philadelphia, after the British army had kept possession of it for nine months.

This event took place on the 18th of June, and it was considered by the Americans as the harbinger of their Independance. They asserted, that the strength of Britain was broken on the American continent, and that the army retreated towards the sea, to be in readiness to embark, if the exigencies of Britain required its assistance.

The British army marched out of Philadelphia at 3 o'clock in the morning, and crossed the Delaware before noon, with all its baggage.

Washington had been apprised of this movement, and dispatched expresses into the Jerseys to collect troops. He passed the Delaware with the main body of his army, and was hourly joined by reinforcements of regular troops and militia.

General Clinton retreated across the country towards Sandy Hook, whence a passage to New-York might be easily effected. In the meantime, Washington pursued the British army he sent the Marquis de la Fayette with a detachment of chosen troops to harass the rear of the enemy, General Lee, who had been lately exchanged, followed with a division to support him, and Washington himself moved with the main body to sustain the whole.

On the 27th of June, the British army engaged in a strong position at Monmouth, near the mouth of the Delaware, and on the morning of the 28th the British evacuated the Jerseys, and retreated to the mouth of the Delaware, where they were met by the Americans under General

Lee, commenced the attack by a severe cannonade ; but Sir Henry Clinton, had made such judicious arrangements of his troops, that the enemy were unable to make any impression on his rear.

The British grenadiers and light infantry engaged the Americans with such vigour, that their first line, commanded by General Lee, was completely broken ; their second line was also defeated ; they both rallied however, and posted themselves with a morass in their front. They were again charged by the British troops, and were with difficulty preserved from a total defeat by the junction of their main body under Washington.

In this action the bravery and discipline of the British troops were conspicuous. They had forced an enemy superior in number from two strong positions, and had endured excessive fatigue both from the intense heat of the day and unremitting toil. The loss of the royal army was about 500 men, and that of the Americans was considerable.

General Lee, who commanded the van division of the American army in the action at Monmouth, was, in consequence of his misconduct, put under arrest, tried by a Court-martial, and sentenced to a temporary suspension from his command.

Washington, after the retreat of the British army, marched to White Plains near King's

Bridge, where he encamped. He remained in this position till the latter end of autumn, when he retired to Middle-Brook, in Jersey. Here his army erected huts, similar to those they had made at Valley-Forge, and went into winter-quarters.

In May, 1779, General Clinton sent a division of the British army to take Stoney-Point, a strong fort on the western side of the North-River. This expedition was successful, as the distance at which Washington lay with his army prevented him from giving any assistance to the garrison. The British General fortified Stoney-Point in the strongest manner, and encamped at Philipsburb, half way between that fortress and New-York, to be in readiness to compel Washington to an engagement, if he should leave his station in Jersey.

In order to counteract these operations, Washington advanced towards the British army. He took a strong position at West-Point, on the banks of the North-River, and formed a design to recover Stoney-Point by surprise. He sent General Wayne, one of the most intrepid officers in his army, to conduct this enterprise. Wayne, at the head of a detachment of chosen men, arrived in the evening of the 15th of July within sight of Stoney-Point. He formed his men into two columns with orders to use the bayonet only. The right column was commanded by himself in person, the left by major Stewart, a bold and active officer. At midnight, the two columns

marched to the attack, from the opposite sides of the works, which were surrounded with a morass and two rows of abatis, well provided with artillery. The Americans were opposed by a tremendous fire of musketry and grape shot but they pressed forward with the bayonet, and both columns met in the centre of the works, where the garrison, amounting to 500 men, were obliged to surrender prisoners of war.

When the British General received the intelligence of the surprise of Stony Point, he marched with his army to retake it, and as Washington did not consider the possession of that fortress of sufficient importance to risk a general action, he demolished the works, and carried off the artillery.

Towards the end of the year 1779, General Clinton sailed from New-York, with a considerable body of troops to attack Charlestown in South-Carolina, where General Lincoln commanded. After a close siege of 6 weeks the town was surrendered to the British General, and the whole American garrison made prisoners. In August 1780, Lord Cornwallis defeated the Americans, under General Gates, at Camden in South Carolina, and he afterwards marched thro' the Southern States without opposition.

During the summer of 1780, the British troops made frequent incursions from New-York into the Jerseys, and an unsuccessful attempt was made by General Knyphausen with 7000

men to surprize the advanced posts of Washington's army. So great were the necessities of the American army, that Washington was obliged to call on the magistrates of the adjacent counties for specified quantities of provisions; nay, he was sometimes compelled to send detachments of his troops to take necessaries at the point of the bayonet from the citizens. This scarcity was principally owing to the depreciation of the paper currency, which discouraged the farmers from selling their provisions to the army. The situation of Washington was peculiarly embarrassing—the army looked to him for necessaries, and the people for the protection of their property; His prudence surmounted these difficulties, and Congress sent a Committee of their own body to his camp, to concert measures for the payment and supply of the troops. As the attempt of the British army against Washington had made no impression of any consequence, the Americans began to recover from the alarm which the loss of Charlestown had excited. Warm exhortations were made to the people by Congress, in which they were called upon by every motive that could animate them to act with spirit and promptitude against Great Britain.

In the mean time, Sir Henry Clinton returned with his victorious army from Charlestown;

and General Arnold who had been entrusted with the command of a very considerable division of the American army at West Point, agreed to deliver up that important post to the British General. As Washington had set out for Hartford to hold a conference with Count de Rochambeau, the negotiation between Sir Henry Clinton and Arnold was carried on with greater facility during his absence. The agent employed by the British General was Major Andre, a young officer of uncommon merit. To favour the necessary communications, the Vulture sloop of war had been previously stationed in the North-River, and a boat was sent at night from the shore to fetch Major Andre—When he had received such instructions as related to his business, he set out on his return, but was intercepted and all his papers seized. Arnold escaped on board the Vulture, but Major Andre was brought before a board of General Officers, by whom he was considered as a spy, and sentenced to death. The officers who signed the condemnation of Andre, and even Washington himself, testified the sincerest grief at the necessity they declared themselves under of complying with the rigorous laws established in such cases.

At the close of the year 1780, the American army felt the rigour of the season with peculiar

circumstances of aggravation by want of pay, clothing, &c. The troops had been enlisted for 3 years, which were now expired, and incensed at so long a continuance of hardships, an insurrection broke out in the Pennsylvania line, which was followed by that of New-Jersey. The complaints of these soldiers being well founded, were redressed, and a general amnesty closed the business. That part of the American army which was under the command of Washington did not escape the contagion of revolt. He prudently remained in his quarters, where his presence, and the respect and affection for his person, tho' it did not prevent murmurs, kept his men within bounds, and prevented a mutiny.

The campaign of 1781, was opened with great vigour by the British army in Carolina. After several skirmishes with various success, the two armies under Lord Cornwallis and General Greene, met at Guilford, on the 15th of March 1781, and after a well contested action, the British remained masters of the field. Lord Cornwallis afterwards marched into Virginia, where notwithstanding the advantages he gained over the Americans, his situation became very critical. Sir Henry Clinton was prevented from sending him reinforcement, as he was apprehensive that Washington intended

to attack New-York. The American Commander in chief employed great finesse to deceive the British general, and by a variety of judicious manœuvres, kept him in continual alarm.—In the mean time, Lord Cornwallis took possession of York Town, in Virginia, and he was followed by the Marquis de la Fayette who had been dispatched by Washington with 2000 light infantry to watch the motions of the British army.

On the 30th of August, Count de Grasse anchored in Chesapeake Bay, with 24 ships of the line. He landed troops to co-operate with Washington, who had moved with the main body of his army to the southward, and when he heard of the arrival of the French fleet in the Chesapeake, he proceeded by forced marches to the head of the Elk, which he crossed and proceeded to York Town.

Washington now invested York Town, with an army of 15,000 Americans, and 9000 French. He had selected his best troops for this important occasion, and the French were chosen out of the bravest corps in France.

The French and American batteries mounted with 50 pieces of cannon, were opened against York Town on the night of the 6th of October, and an incessant fire was kept up till the 14th, when two detachments of the besieg-

ers attacked and stormed two redoubts in front of the British works. The besieged were now so reduced by sickness, and the accidents of war that they amounted only to 5,600 effective men. Meanwhile, Sir Henry Clinton selected 7000 of his best troops, which he embarked at New-York, on board the British fleet, with a determination to succour the army under Lord Cornwallis; but the garrison at York Town having persevered to the utmost extremity, and no prospect of relief appearing, a negociation was opened with Washington, and the troops and seamen were obliged to surrender themselves prisoners of war. Thus terminated the decisive campaign of 1780, which realised American Independence.

Soon after the capture of Lord Cornwallis, the British armament appeared off the Chesapeake, in the latter end of October, but to their mortification, they were apprised that the army under Lord Cornwallis had surrendered.

Washington felt all the honest exultation of a patriot at this event. The orders published in his camp, on the 20th of October, were strongly expressive of his satisfaction. He congratulated the officers and soldiers of the combined armies on their success, and issued a general pardon to all persons in the Continental army who were under arrest, "that every heart

might partake of the general joy." Nor did he omit what he knew would be peculiarly acceptable to the religious turn of many of his countrymen. His orders concluded with a particular injunction, "That a thanksgiving service should be performed," at which it was solemnly recommended to the troops to assist with that seriousness and sensibility of heart, which the surprising interposition of Providence in their favour so justly claimed.

Washington was solicitous that the prisoners of war should be well treated. By his orders, they were distributed in the provinces of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, and their allowance was the same as that of the American army.

Congress voted an address of thanks to Washington, Count Rochambeau, Count de Grasse, and all the officers and soldiers of the combined armies, for the services they had performed. They also resolved, "That, in remembrance of the surrender of the British army, a marble column should be erected at York Town, Virginia, adorned with emblems of the alliance between France and the United States of America, and inscribed with a succinct account of the memorable event it was intended to commemorate."

Washington now returned with the principal

part of his army to the vicinity of New-York, where, as he was unable to reduce that city, he went into winter quarters. The only appearances of an existing war were some skirmishes and predatory excursions.

On the 5th of May, 1782, Sir Guy Carleton arrived at New-York, being appointed to command the British army in America. Immediately on his arrival, he acquainted Washington and Congress, that negotiations for a peace had commenced at Paris. Meanwhile, the British troops evacuated all their posts in South Carolina and Georgia, and retired to the main army at New York.

Preliminary articles of peace were signed at Paris on the 30th of November, 1782, by Mr. Fitzherbert and Mr. Oswald, on the part of Great Britain, and, by Dr. Franklin, Mr. Adams, Mr. Jay, and Mr. Lawrens, on the part of the United States. By this treaty his Majesty acknowledged the Thirteen United Colonies to be "free, sovereign and independent States."

As military operations were now entirely suspended; it was no longer necessary to keep the American army embodied. The States, however, were unable to pay them the arrears due for their inestimable services, and those men who had spent the prime of their days in defence of their country, were now to be dismissed without a reward.

An attempt was made by anonymous papers to incite the officers and soldiers to revolt. Washington, who was then in the camp, saw the danger, and exerted his influence to prevent it. At a meeting of the general and field officers, with one officer from each company, the commander in Chief addressed them in a pathetic speech, in which he conjured them, "as they valued their honour, as they respected the rights of humanity, and as they regarded the military and national character of America, to express their utmost detestation of the man who was attempting to open the flood-gates of civil discord, and deluge their rising empire with blood. Washington then retired. The officers, softened by the eloquence of their beloved commander, entered into a resolution, by which they declared, "that no circumstance of distress or danger should induce a conduct that might tend to sully the reputation and glory they had acquired; that the army continued to have an unshaken confidence in the justice of Congress and their Country, and that they viewed with abhorrence, and rejected with disdain, the infamous propositions in the late anonymous address to the officers of the army."

The fortitude and patriotism of Washington were in no instance of more essential service to America, than on this momentous occasion.

Instead of making the discontent of the army instrumental to his own ambition, and usurping the government, this magnanimous patriot soothed the passions of his soldiers, and preserved inviolate the liberties of his country.

Towards the close of the year 1783, Congress issued a proclamation, in which the armies of the United States were applauded for their "long eminent and faithful services." Congress then declared it to be their pleasure, "that such part of their Federal armies as stood engaged to serve during the war, should, from and after the 3d day of November next, be absolutely discharged from the said service."

Washington's "Farewell orders to the armies of the United States," dated Rocky-Hill, near Princeton, 2d Nov. 1783, is a pathetic exhortation, in which the disinterestedness of the Patriot is blended with the wisdom of the Philosopher.—it contains the following interesting and impressive passages.

"It only remains for the commander in Chief to address himself once more, and for the last time, to the armies of the United States, and to bid them an affectionate—a long farewell.

"It is universally acknowledged, that the enlarged prospect of happiness opened by the establishment of our Independance, almost exceed

the power of description ; and shall not the brave men who have contributed so essentially to this inestimable acquisition, retiring victorious from the field of war to the field of agriculture, participate in all the blessings which have been obtained?—In such a Republic, who will exclude them from the rights of citizens, and the fruits of their labours?—To those hardy soldiers who are actuated by the spirit of adventure, the fisheries will afford an ample and profitable employment ; and the fertile regions of the West will yield a most happy assylum to those who, fond of domestic enjoyment, are seeking for personal independence.

“ The commander in Chief conceives little is now wanting to enable the soldiers to change the military character into that of the Citizen ; but that steady and decent tenour of behaviour which has generally distinguished not only the army under his immediate command, but the different detachments and separate armies, thro’ the course of the war—from their good sense and prudence, he anticipates the happiest consequences ;—and, while he congratulates them on the glorious occasion which renders their services in the field no longer necessary, he wishes to express the strong obligation he feels himself under, for the assistance he has received from every class, and in every instance. To the va-

rious branches of the army, the General takes this last and solemn opportunity of professing his inviolable attachment and friendship—He wishes more than bare professions were in his power—that he was really able to be useful to them in future life. And being now to conclude these his last public orders, to take his ultimate leave, in a short time, of the military character, and to bid a final adieu to the armies he has so long had the honour to command, he can only again offer, in their behalf, his recommendations to their grateful Country, and his prayers to the God of Armies. May ample justice be done them here, and may the choicest of Heaven's favours both here and hereafter attend those who, under the Divine auspices, have secured innumerable blessings for others!—With these wishes, and this benediction, the Commander in chief is about to retire from service. The curtain of separation will soon be drawn, and the military scene, to him, will be closed for ever.”

To this address, the army that remained at West-Point, on the banks of the Hudson, sent a most respectful and affectionate answer. After returning thanks to their General, for his exertions in their favour, they express their feelings in the following bold and figurative language:

“ Regardless of present sufferings, we look-

ed forward to the end of our toils and dangers, to brighter scenes in prospect. There we beheld the genius of our Country dignified, by our Sovereignty and Independance, supported by Justice, and adorned with every liberal Virtue. There we saw patient Husbandry fearless extend her cultivated field, and animated Commerce spread her sails to every wind. There we beheld fair Science lift her head, with all the Arts attending in her train. There, blest with Freedom, we saw the human Mind expand, and throwing aside the restraints which confined it to the narrow bounds of country it embraced the world. Those animating prospects are now changing to realities, and actively to have contributed to their production, is our pride, our glory."

New-York was evacuated by the British troops about 3 weeks after the discharge of the American army. Meanwhile, Washington, having finished the great work of the Revolution, and founded a Republic, he wished to retire from the eye of observation, to the peaceful rural shades of his patrimonial inheritance. Accordingly, he took leave of his officers in the most solemn manner. Having been previously assembled for that purpose, Washington joined them, and calling for a glass of wine addressed them in the following words: "With a heart full of love

and gratitude, I now take leave of you :—I most devoutly wish, that your latter days may be prosperous and happy, as your former ones have been glorious and honourable." The officers were deeply affected : they came up to him successively, and he took an affectionate leave of each. He then left the room, and passed between the ranks of a corps of light Infantry, that lined his way to the side of the North River.—The officers followed him in a solemn silent train ; their eyes were suffused with tears. They felt a strong emotion of regret at parting with a hero who had participated their dangers, and so often led them to glory. When Washington entered the barge, he turned towards his fellow-soldiers, with a countenance expressive of his feelings, and waved his hat as a last adieu.

He proceeded to Annapolis, to resign his commission to Congress, and was accompanied by his nephew, Major George Washington, and Colonel Humphreys, his aid-de-camp.—His progress was marked by public rejoicings ; triumphal arches were erected at the entrance of every town and village through which he passed. A number of beautiful young virgins, robed in white, met him with songs of gratulation—they strewed laurel before the benign hero, who moved slowly on a white charger. The

name of Washington excited an universal emotion. Women and children thronged the doors and windows, eager to behold the Deliverer of their Country—bands of music filled the air with sprightly melody, while the men, who had fought under the banners of Liberty hailed their General with acclamations. Washington received this tribute of public gratitude with his characteristic benignity while his bosom participated the general happiness.

On his arrival at Annapolis, he informed Congress of his intended resignation;—they resolved it should be in a public audience, and on the day appointed, numbers of distinguished persons attended, to behold the interesting scene. General Washington addressed the President in the following words.

Mr. President,

“The great events on which my resignation depended, having at length taken place, I have now the honour of offering my sincere congratulations to Congress, and of presenting myself before them to surrender into their hands the trust committed to me, and to claim the indulgence of retiring from the service of my country.

“Happy in the confirmation of our Independence and Sovereignty, and pleased with the opportunity afforded the United States of becoming a respectable nation, I resign with satisfac-

tion, the appointment I accepted with diffidence; a diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task, which however, was superceded by a confidence in the rectitude of our cause, the support of the Supreme Power of the Union, and the patronage of Heaven.

“ The successful termination of the war has verified the most sanguine expectations, and my gratitude for the interposition of Providence, and the assistance I have received from my country-men, increases with every review of the momentous contest.

“ While I repeat my obligations to the army in general, I should do injustice to my own feeling, not to acknowledge, in this place, the peculiar services and distinguished merits of the persons who had been attached to my person during the war; It was impossible the choice of confidential officers to compose my family should have been more fortunate; permit me, Sir, to recommend, in particular, those who have continued in the service to the present moment, as worthy of the favourable notice and patronage of Congress.

“ I consider it as my indispensable duty to close this last solemn act of my official life, by recommending the interests of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God, and those who have the superintendence of them to his holy keeping.

“ Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of action, and bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body, under whose orders I have long acted, I here offer my commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life.”

To this the President returned the following answer :

“ The United States in Congress assembled, receive with emotions too affecting for utterance, the solemn resignation of the authorities under which you have led their troops with success, through a perilous and doubtful war.

“ Called upon by your Country to defend its invaded rights, you had accepted the sacred charge before it had formed alliances, and whilst it was without friends or a government to support her.

“ You have conducted the great military contest with wisdom and fortitude, invariably regarding the rights of the civil power through all disasters and changes. You have by the love and confidence of your fellow-citizens, enabled them to display their martial genius and transmit their fame to posterity.—Having defended the standard of Liberty in this new world, having taught a lesson useful to those who inflict, and to those who feel oppression, you retire from the great theatre of action with the

blessings of our fellow citizens ; but the glory of your virtues will not terminate with your military command—it will continue to animate remotest ages.”

Washington now hastened to Mount Vernon, where he was welcomed by his affectionate consort, neighbors and domestics, with every demonstration of joy ; and divesting himself of the military robe, he once more assumed the plain garb of the farmer.

Agriculture was his favourite pursuit—His estate at Mount Vernon particularly engaged his attention, and was productive of large quantities of wheat, Indian corn, potatoes, and flax, besides flocks of sheep and herds of cattle.—His life was regulated by temperance ; he rose early, and after spending the day in a variety of rural pursuits, he retired to rest about nine o'clock. This was his invariable rule, except when visitors required his polite attention. His table was spread with the most wholesome viands and pure wines, but he commonly dined on a single dish, which with a few glasses of wine, formed his repast. He liberally patronized an academy at Alexandria, encouraged the interior navigation of the Potomack ; he was the benefactor of the poor, and, in short, like the sun to vegetation, his cheering influence and example promoted the happiness of society where he resided.

In these peaceful scenes, Washington enjoyed the rational delights of rural life from the year 1783, till the summer of 1787, when he was chosen President of the Convention, which met at Philadelphia, and framed the present Constitution of the United States. The Federal Union after eleven years experience, had been found inadequate to the purposes of government. The fundamental distinction between the Articles of Confederation, and the new Constitution, lies in this ; the former acted only on States, the latter on individuals ;—the former could neither raise men or money by its own authority, but lay at the discretion of 13 different Legislatures, and, without their unanimous concurrence, was unable to provide for the public safety, or for the payment of the national debt. By the new Constitution, one Legislative, Executive, and Judicial power pervades the whole Union.” After a full consideration, and thorough discussion of its principles, it was ratified by 11 of the 13 states, and North Carolina and Rhode Island have since given their concurrence.

The new Constitution being thus adopted, Washington was chosen President in April, 1789, by the unanimous vote of his countrymen. When he received intelligence of his election, he set out from Mount Vernon for New-York. He was escorted by the militia and gentlemen of the

first character from State to State, and numerous addressees of Congratulation were presented to him by the inhabitants of the towns through which he passed. On his approach to Philadelphia, he was met by above 20,000 citizens, who conducted him to the city, where an elegant entertainment was prepared for him.

His progress from Philadelphia to New-York is thus described by an elegant writer, and presents an animated picture of public gratitude. "When Mr. Washington crossed the Delaware and landed on the Jersey shore, he was saluted with 3 cheers by the inhabitants of the vicinity. When he came to the brow of the hill on his way to Trenton, a triumphal arch was erected on the bridge, by the direction of the ladies of the place. The crown of the arch was highly ornamented with imperial laurels and flowers, and on it was displayed, in large figures, "December 26th, 1776." On the sweep of the arch, was this inscription, "The Defender of the Mothers will also protect their Daughters." On the north side were ranged a number of young girls dressed in white, with garlands of flowers on their heads, and baskets of flowers on their arms—in the second row stood the young ladies, and behind them the married ladies of the town. The instant he passed the arch, the young girls began to sing the following ode :

“ Welcome, mighty Chief, once more,

“ Welcome to this grateful shore :—

“ Now no mercenary foe

“ Aims, again, the fatal blow—

“ Aims at thee the fatal blow.

“ Virgins fair and matrons grave,

“ These thy conq'ring arm did save,

“ Build for thee triumphant bowers ;

“ Strew ye fair, his way, with flowers,

“ Strew your Hero's way with flowers.”

“ As they sung the last lines, they strewed their flowers on the road before their beloved Deliverer.—His situation on this occasion, contrasted with what he had, in December 1776, felt on the same spot, when the affairs of America were at the lowest ebb of depression, filled him with sensations that cannot be described. He was rowed across the bay from Elizabeth-Town to New-York, in an elegant barge, by 13 pilots. All the vessels in the harbour hoisted their flags. On his landing, universal joy diffused itself thro' every order of the people, and he was received and congratulated by the Governor of the State and officers of the Corporation. In the evening, the houses of the inhabitants were brilliantly illuminated.

On the 30th of April he was inaugurated President of the United States, and took the oath enjoined by the constitution, in the following words, “ I do solemnly swear, that I will faith-

fully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." An universal and solemn silence prevailed among the spectators during this part of the ceremony. The Chancellor then proclaimed him President of the United States, and was answered by the discharge of cannon, and the acclamations of 20,000 citizens.

Soon after his appointment to the Chief Magistracy, he visited the Eastern States, with a view to promote agriculture, and explore the means of national improvement. The French Revolution, which has excited the attention of mankind, proved a severe test to the prudence of Washington. Tho' he secretly disapproved of the violent measures of the French Republic, yet he saw that it was necessary for America to preserve a mutual good understanding with that nation.

Washington was twice elected President, and during his 8 years administration, he performed the duties of his arduous office with all the zeal of an honest patriot.—After having spent 45 years of his life in the service of his country, he, in September, 1796, announced his determination to retire in an address, expressive of his gratitude and affection.

Washington once more retired to his favour-

ite seat, with the hope of devoting the remainder of his days to the calm duties of domestic life. From March, 1797, to July 1798, he enjoyed the pleasures arising from the practice of virtue. The aggressions of France now alarmed Mr. Adams's administration, and that they might be prepared to resist open hostility, they found it expedient to embody their army. Convinced of the abilities and integrity of that venerable man, whose valour had been instrumental to the emancipation of his country, Congress appointed Washington Commander in Chief of the armies. He accepted the appointment, and his letter to the President on that occasion, is marked with that perspicuity which distinguishes all his writings.

But the moment now approached in which this illustrious character was to be removed to another state of existence. On the 12th of December, 1799, he rode out to one of his plantations, and the day being rainy he caught cold, which brought on an inflammatory fore throat. This disease became alarming on Friday night, and when his physician arrived on Saturday morning, medical aid was inefficacious. A few minutes before he expired, he enquired, " Doctor, how long am I to remain in this situation ?" The physician replied, " Not long Sir."

A gentleman, who was present at Mount

Vernon, has furnished us with the following particulars relative to the death of General Washington:—

“The General, a little before his death, had begun several improvements on his farm. Attending to some of these, he probably caught his death. He had in contemplation a gravel walk on the banks of the Potomack; between the walk and the river there was to be a fish-pond. Some trees were to be cut down, and others preserved. On Friday the day before he died, he spent some time by the side of the river marking the former. There came a fall of snow, which did not deter him from his pursuit, but he continued till his neck and hair were quite covered with snow. He spent the evening with Mrs. Washington, reading the newspapers, which came by the mail that evening; he went to bed as usual about 9 o’ clock, waked up in the night, and found himself extremely unwell, but would not allow Mrs. Washington to get up, or the servants to be waked. In the morning, finding himself very ill, Dr. Craik of Alexandria, was sent for. Soon after his arrival, two consulting physicians were called in, but all would not avail. On Saturday he died. He said to Col. Lear a little before his death, “bury me decently, and not till two days after my decease.”—To Dr. Craik he said. “I die a

very hard death, but I am not afraid to die."— Before he breathed his last, he laid himself on his back, placed his hands before him, and closed his own mouth and eyes."

PHILADELPHIA, *Dec.* 19.

On Saturday the 14th inst. died at his seat in Virginia, General George Washington, Commander in Chief of the Armies, and late President of the Congress, of the United States of America—mature in years, covered with glory, and rich in the affections of a free people, and the admiration of the whole civilized world.

When men of common character are swept from the theatre of life, they die without the tribute of public concern, as they had lived without a claim to public esteem—But when Personages of great and exalted worth, are summoned from this sublunary scene, their death calls forth a burst of general regret, and invigorates the flame of public gratitude—In obedience therefore to the voice of their Country, the Poet, the Orator, and the Historian, will combine to do justice to the character of this illustrious PATRIOT: whilst the ingenious labours of the Sculptor, the Statuary, and the Painter, will unite in perpetuating the virtues of THE MAN OF THE AGE.

Mourn, COLUMBIA, mourn!—Thy Father and Protector is no more!—Mourn Reader, of

whatever kindred, tongue or clime thou be, *thy* Friend, the Friend of Man and of Liberty, is gone! The Hero, the Sage, the Patriot, this glorious emanation of the Diety, is carried back to the bosom of his God!—The recording Angel has enregistered his virtuous deeds in Heaven, and the name of WASHINGTON will live for ever!

ALEXANDRIA, *Dec. 20.*

On Wednesday last the mortal part of Washington the Great—the Father of his Country, and the Friend of Man—was consigned to the silent tomb with solemn honours and funeral pomp.

A multitude of people, from many miles round, assembled at Mount Vernon, the choice abode, and last earthly residence of its illustrious Chief. There were the groves, the spacious avenues, the beautiful scenery, the noble mansion—but alas! its august inhabitant was gone!—his body indeed, was there, but his soul was fled!

In the long and lofty portico, where oft the Hero walked in all his virtuous glory, now lay the shrouded corpse.—The countenance, still composed and serene, seemed to express the dignity of that spirit which so lately actuated the lifeless form—There, those who paid the last sad honours to the Benefactor of his Country, took a last—a sad farewell.

Near the head of the coffin, were inscribed the words *Surge ad Judicium* ; about the middle, *Gloria Deo* ; and, on the silver plate, *General George Washington departed this Life 14th Dec. Ætat 68.*

Between 3 and 4 o'clock, the sound of artillery from a vessel in the river firing minute guns, aroused all our sorrowful feelings—the body was moved, and a band of music with mournful melody, melted the soul into all the tenderness of woe.—The procession marched in the following order :

Cavalry, Infantry, & Guard with arms reversed :

Clergy ;——Music ;

The general's horse, with his saddle, holsters, and pistols ;

Col. Simms,
Ramfay,
Payne,

{ CORPSE. }

Col. Gilpin,
Marsteller,
Little ;

Mourners ;

Masonic Brethren ;

And Citizens.

When the procession arrived at the bottom of the lawn on the banks of the Potomack, where the family vault is placed, the Cavalry halted, and the Infantry marched towards the mount and formed in lines ; The Clergy, the Masonic Brethren, and the Citizens, descended to the vault, where the Church funeral service was performed.

Three general discharges by the artillery, cavalry, and infantry paid the last tribute of respect to the entombed Commander in Chief of the American Armies.

The Sun was now setting—Alas, the Son of Glory was set—No, the name of WASHINGTON will live for ever!

From Vernon's Mount behold the Hero rise,
Resplendent Forms attend him thro' the skies!
The shades of war-worn Veterans round him throng,
And lead enwrap'd their honour'd Chief along.
A laurel wreath the immortal WARREN bears,
An arch triumphal MERCER's hand prepares;
Young LAWRENCE, erst th' avenging bolt of war,
With port majestic, guides the glittering car;
MONTGOMERY's godlike form directs the way,
And GREEN unfolds the gates of endless day;
Whilst Angels, "trumpet tongu'd," proclaim thro' air,

'Due Honours for THE FIRST OF MEN prepare!'

PROCEEDINGS IN CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, *Dec.* 19, 1799.

Mr Marshall addressed the Chair as follows:
"Mr SPEAKER—The melancholy event which was yesterday announced with doubt, has been rendered but too certain. Our Washington is no more!—The hero, the sage, and the patriot of America—the man on whom in times of danger, every eye was turned, and all hopes were placed, lives now, only in his own great

actions, and in the hearts of an affectionate and an afflicted people.

“ If, Sir, it had even not been usual, openly to testify respect for the memory of those whom Heaven had selected as its instruments for dispensing good to men, yet, such has been the uncommon worth, and such the extraordinary incidents, which have marked the life of him, whose loss we all deplore, that the whole American nation, impelled by the same feelings, would call with one voice, for a public manifestation of that sorrow, which is so deep and so universal.

“ More than any other individual, and as much as to one individual was possible, has he contributed to found this our wide spreading Empire, and to give to the Western World its independence and freedom.

“ Having effected the great object, for which he was placed at the head of our armies, we have seen him converting the sword into the plough-share, and voluntarily sinking the Soldier into the Citizen.

“ When the debility of our Federal system had become manifest, and the bonds, which connected the parts of this vast continent, were dissolving, we have seen him the Chief of those Patriots who formed for us a Constitution, which by preserving the Union, will, I trust, substan-

tiate and perpetuate those blessings, which our Revolution had promised to bestow.

“ In obedience to the general voice of his Country, calling on him to preside over a Great People, we have seen him once more quit the retirement he loved, and in a season more tempestuous than war itself, with calm and wise determination, pursue the true interests of the Nation, and contribute, more than any other could contribute, to the establishment of that system of policy, which will, I trust, yet preserve our peace, our honour, and our independence.

“ Having been twice unanimously chosen the Chief Magistrate of a Free People, we see him, at a time when his re-election with universal suffrage could not be doubted, affording to the world a rare instance of moderation, by withdrawing from his high station to the peaceful walks of private life.

“ However the public confidence may change and the public affections fluctuate with respect to others, yet, with respect to him, they have in war and in peace, in public and in private life, been as steady as his own firm mind, and as constant as his own exalted virtues.

“ Let us, then, Mr. Speaker, pay the last tribute of affection and respect to our departed Friend—Let the Grand Council of the Nation

display those sentiments which the Nation feels — For this purpose I hold in my hand some Resolutions, which I take the liberty of offering to the House.”

Mr. Marshall having handed his Resolutions to the Clerk, they were read, and unanimously agreed to, as follows, viz.

Resolved, That this House will wait on the President of the United States, in condolence of this mournful event.

Resolved, That the Speaker's chair be shrouded with black, and that the members and Officers of the House wear black during the Session.

Resolved, That a Committee, in conjunction with one from the Senate, be appointed to consider on the most suitable manner of paying honour to the memory of the MAN, first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his Countrymen.

MONDAY, *Dec.* 23.

Mr. Marshall made a report from the joint Committee appointed to consider a suitable mode of commemorating the death of General Washington.

He reported the following Resolutions :

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That a marble monument

be erected by the United States at the Capitol of the City of Washington, and that the family of General Washington be requested to permit his body to be deposited under it ; and that the monument be so designed as to commemorate the great events of his military and political life.

And be it further resolved, That there be a funeral procession from Congress Hall, to the German Lutheran Church, in memory of Gen. George Washington, on Thursday the 26th inst, and that an oration be prepared at the request of Congress, to be delivered before both Houses that day ; and that the President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, be desired to request one of the Members of Congress to deliver the same.

And be it further resolved, That it be recommended to the people of the United States, to wear crape on their left arm as mourning, for thirty days,

And be it further resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to direct a copy of these Resolutions to be transmitted to Mrs. Washington, assuring her of the profound respect Congress will ever bear to her person and character, of their condolence on the late affecting dispensation of Providence, and intreating her assent to the interment of the re-

mains of General Washington in the manner expressed in the first resolution.

And be it further resolved, that the President of the United States be requested to issue his proclamation, notifying to the People thro'out the United States the recommendation contained in the third resolution.

These Resolutions passed both Houses unanimously.

Same day, the Senate sent the following letter of condolence to the president of the United States, by a committee of its members :

To the President of the United States:

THE Senate of the United States respectfully take leave, Sir, to express to you the deep regret for the loss their country sustains in the death of General George Washington.

This event, so distressing to all our fellow citizens must be peculiarly heavy to you, who have long been associated with him in deeds of Patriotism. Permit us, Sir, to mingle our tears with yours—on this occasion it is manly to weep. To lose such a man, at such a crisis, is no common calamity to the world—our Country mourns her Father. The Almighty Disposer of human events has taken from us our greatest Benefactor and Ornament—It becomes us to submit with reverence to Him, who “maketh darkness his pavillion.”

With patriotic pride, we review the life of our WASHINGTON, and compare him with those of other countries, who have been pre-eminent in fame. Ancient and modern names are diminished before him. Greatness and Guilt have too often been allied ; but his fame is whiter than it is brilliant. The destroyers of nations stood abashed at the majesty of his virtue.—It reproved the intemperance of their ambition, and darkened the splendour of victory. The scene is closed, and we are no longer anxious lest misfortune should sully his glory ; he has travelled on to the end of his journey, and carried with him an increasing weight of honour ; he has deposited it safely, where Misfortune cannot tarnish it—Where Malice cannot blast it. Favour- ed of Heaven, he departed without exhibiting the weakness of humanity ; magnanimous in death, the darkness of the grave could not obscure his brightness.

Such was the Man whom we deplore.—

Thanks to God, his glory is consummated—
WASHINGTON yet lives on earth in his spotless example—his spirit is in Heaven !

Let his countrymen consecrate the memory of the heroic General—the patriotic Statesman—and the virtuous Sage ;—let them teach their children never to forget, that the fruits of his labours and his example are their inheritance.

The PRESIDENT'S ANSWER:*Gentlemen of the Senate,*

I RECEIVE, with the most respectful and affectionate sentiments, in this impressive Address, the obliging expressions of your regret for the loss our country has sustained, in the death of her most esteemed, beloved, and admired Citizen.

In the multitude of my thoughts and recollections on this melancholy event, you will permit me to say, that I have seen him in the days of adversity, in some of the scenes of his deepest distress, and most trying perplexities ; I have also attended him in his highest elevation, and most prosperous felicity, with uniform admiration of his wisdom, moderation, and constancy.

Among all our original associates in that memorable League of the continent in 1774, which first expressed the sovereign will of a Free Nation in America, he was the only one remaining in the General Government. Altho', with a constitution more enfeebled than his, at an age when he thought it necessary to prepare for retirement, I feel myself alone—bereaved of my last brother ; yet I derive a strong consolation from the unanimous disposition which appears in all ages and classes, to mingle their sorrows with mine on this common calamity to the world.

The life of our WASHINGTON cannot suffer

by a comparison with those of other countries, who have been most celebrated and exalted by Fame. The attributes and decorations of *Royalty* could only have served to eclipse the majesty of those virtues which made him, from being a modest *Citizen*, a more resplendant luminary. Misfortune, had he lived, could hereafter have sullied his glory only with those superficial minds, who, believing "that characters, and actions are marked by success alone," rarely deserve to enjoy it. *Malice* could never blast his honour, and *Envy* made him a singular exception to her universal rule—For himself, he had lived enough to Life and Glory—For his fellow-citizens, if their prayers could have been answered, he would have been immortal—For me, his departure is at a most unfortunate moment. Trusting, however, in the wise and righteous dominion of Providence over the passions of men, and the results of their councils and actions, as well as over their lives, nothing remains for me but humble resignation.

His example is now complete, and it will teach wisdom and virtue to magistrates, citizens, and men, not only in the present age, but in future generations, as long as our history shall be read—If a *Tragen* found a *Pliny*, a *Marcus Aurelius* can never want biographers, eulogists, or historians.

JOHN ADAMS.

On monday the 8th of January, the President sent the following letters to Congress :—

Gentlemen of the Senate, and

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives.

IN compliance with the request in one of the Resolutions of Congress of the 21st of December last, I transmitted a copy of those Resolutions, by my secretary, Mr. Shaw, to Mrs. Washington, assuring her of the profound respect Congress will ever bear to her person and character—of their condolence in the late afflicting dispensation of Providence, and entreating her assent to the interment of the remains of General George Washington in the manner expressed in the first Resolution. As the sentiments of that virtuous lady, not less beloved by this nation, than she is at present greatly afflicted, can never be so well expressed as in her own words, I transmit to Congress her original letter.

It would be an attempt of too much delicacy to make any comments upon it—But there can be no doubt, that the Nation at large, as well as all the branches of the Government, will be highly gratified by any arrangement which may diminish the sacrifice she makes of her individual feelings.

JOHN ADAMS.

MRS. WASHINGTON'S ANSWER.

SIR, Mount Vernon, 31st Dec. 1799.

While I feel, with keenest anguish, the late dispensations of Divine Providence, I cannot be insensible to the mournful tribute of respect and veneration which is paid to the memory of my dear deceased husband; and, as his best services and most anxious wishes were always devoted to

the welfare and happiness of his country, to know that they were truly appreciated, and gratefully remembered, affords no inconsiderable consolation.

Taught by the great example which I have so long had before me, never to oppose my private wishes to the public will, I must consent to the request made by Congress, which you have had the goodness to transmit to me. And, in doing this, I need not, I cannot say, what a sacrifice of individual feeling I make to a sense of public duty,

With grateful acknowledgements, and unfeigned thanks, for the personal respect and evidences of condolence expressed by Congress and Yourself, I remain very respectfully.

MARTHA WASHINGTON.

THE
FAREWELL ADDRESS
OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Friends and Fellow-Citizens,

THE period for a new election of a citizen, to administer the executive government of the United States, being not far distant, and the time actually arrived, when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears

to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made. I beg you, at the same time, to do me the justice to be assured, that this resolution has not been taken, without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country ; and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest ; no deficiency of grateful respect, for your past kindness ; but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in the office to which your suffrages have twice called me, have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty, and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped, that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistent with motives which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you ; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons

entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice that the state of your concerns, external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty, or propriety; and am persuaded, whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country, you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impressions with which I first undertook the arduous trust, were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of this trust, I will only say, that I have with good intentions, contributed towards the organization and administration of the government, the best exertions of which a very fallible judgment was capable. Not unconscious, in the outset, of the inferiority of my qualifications, experience in my own eyes, perhaps still more in the eyes of others, has strengthened the motives to diffidence of myself; and, every day the increasing weight of years admonishes me more and more that the shade of retirement is as necessary to me as it will be welcome. Satisfied that if any circumstances have given peculiar value to my services, they were temporary, I have the consolation to believe, that while choice and prudence invite me to quit the political scene, patriotism does not forbid it.

In looking forward to the moment, which is intended to terminate the career of my public

life, my feelings do not permit me to suspend the deep acknowledgement of that debt of gratitude which I owe to my beloved country, for the many honors it has conferred upon me; still more for the stedfast confidence with which it has supported me; and for the opportunities I have thence enjoyed of manifesting my inviolable attachment, by services faithful and persevering, tho' in usefulness unequal to my zeal. If benefits have resulted to our country from these services, let it always be remembered to your praise and as an instructive example in our annals, that under circumstances in which the passions, agitated in every direction, were liable to mislead, amidst appearances sometimes dubious—vicissitudes of fortune often discouraging—in situations in which not unfrequently want of success has countenanced the spirit of criticism—the constancy of your support was the essential prop of the efforts, and a guarantee of the plans by which they were effected.

Profoundly penetrated with this idea, I shall carry it with me to my grave, as a strong incitement to unceasing vows that Heaven may continue to you the choicest tokens of its beneficence—that your union and brotherly affection may be perpetual—that the free constitution which is the work of your hands, may be sacredly maintained—that its administration in every department may be stamped with wisdom and virtue—that, in fine, the happiness of the people of these States under the auspices of liberty, may

be made complete, by so careful a preservation and so prudent a use of this blessing, as will acquire to them the glory of recommending it to the applause, the affection and the adoption of every nation which is yet a stranger to it.

Here perhaps I ought to stop. But a solicitude for your welfare, which cannot end but with my life, and the apprehension of danger, natural to that solicitude, urge me on an occasion like the present, to offer to your solemn contemplation, and to recommend to your frequent review, some sentiments, which are the result of much reflection, of no inconsiderable observation, and which appear to me all important to the permanency of your felicity as a People. These will be offered to you with the more freedom, as you can only see in them the disinterested warnings of a parting friend, who can possibly have no personal motives to bias his council. Nor can I forget as an encouragement to it, your indulgent reception of my sentiments on a former and not dissimilar occasion. Interwoven as is the love of liberty with every ligament of your hearts, no recommendation of mine is necessary to fortify or confirm the attachment.

The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you. It is justly so; for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquillity at home, your peace abroad; of your safety; of your prosperity; of that very liberty which you so highly prize. But as it is easy to foresee, that from dis-

ferent causes and from different quarters, much pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth ; as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly and insidiously) directed, it is of infinite moment, that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national Union, to your collective and individual happiness ; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual and immovable attachment to it ; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as the palladium of your political safety and prosperity ; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety ; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can in any event be abandoned ; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest ; or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.

For this you have every inducement of sympathy and interest. Citizens by birth or choice, of a common country, that country has a right to concentrate your affections. The name of *American*, which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference you have the same religion, manners, habits and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together ; the independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint councils, and joint efforts, of common dangers, sufferings and successes. But these con-

siderations, however powerfully they address themselves to your sensibility, are greatly outweighed by those which apply more immediately to your interest—Here every portion of our country finds the most commanding motives for carefully guarding and preserving the Union of the whole.

The North, in an unrestrained intercourse with the South, protected by the equal laws of common government, finds in the productions of the latter great additional resources of maritime and commercial enterprize and precious materials of manufacturing industry. The South, in the same intercourse, benefiting by the agency of the North, sees its agriculture grow and its commerce expand. Turning partly into its own channels the seamen of the North, it finds its particular navigation invigorated ; and while it contributes, in different ways, to nourish and increase the general mass of the national navigation, it looks forward to the protection of a maritime strength, to which itself is unequally adapted. The East, in a like intercourse with the West, already finds, and in the progressive improvements of interior communications, by land and water, will more and more find a valuable vent for the commodities which it brings from abroad or manufactures at home. The West derives from the East supplies requisite to its growth and comfort—and what is perhaps of still greater consequence, it must of necessity owe the secure

enjoyment of indispensable outlets for its own productions to the weight, influence, and the future maritime strength of the Atlantic side of the Union, directed by an indissoluble community of interest as ONE NATION. Any other tenure by which the West can hold this essential advantage, whether derived from its own separate strength, or from an apostate and unnatural connection with any foreign power, must be intrinsically precarious.

While then every part of our country thus feels an immediate and particular interest in Union, all the parties combined cannot fail to find in the united mass of means and efforts greater strength, greater resources, proportionably greater security from external danger, a less frequent interruption of their peace by foreign nations ; and, what is of inestimable value : they must derive from Union an exemption from those broils and wars between themselves, which so frequently afflict neighboring countries, not tied together by the same government ; which their own rivalships alone would be sufficient to produce, but which opposite foreign alliances, attachments and intrigues would stimulate and embitter.—Hence likewise they will avoid the necessity of those overgrown military establishments, which under any form of government, are inauspicious to liberty, and which are to be regarded as particularly hostile to Republican Li-

berty ; in this sense it is, that your Union ought to be considered as a main prop of your liberty, and that the love of the one ought to endear to you the preservation of the other.

These considerations speak a persuasive language to every reflecting and virtuous mind, and exhibit the continuence of the *Union* as a primary object of patriotic desire. Is there a doubt, whether a common government can embrace so large a sphere ? Let experience solve it. To listen to mere speculation in such a case were criminal. We are authorized to hope that a proper organization of the whole, with auxiliary agency of governments for the respective subdivisions, will afford a happy issue to the experiment. 'Tis well worth a fair and full experiment. With such powerful and obvious motives to Union, affecting all parts of our country, while experience shall not have demonstrated its impracticability, there will always be reason to distrust the patriotism of those, who in any quarter may endeavour to weaken its bands.

In contemplating the cause which may disturb our Union, it occurs as a matter of serious concern that any ground should have been furnished for charesterising parties by *geographical* discriminations—*northern* and *southern*—*Atlantic* and *western*—whence designing men may endeavour to excite a belief that there is a real difference of local

interests and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence, within particular districts, is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heart burnings which spring from these misrepresentations ; they tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection. The inhabitants of our western country have lately had a useful lesson on this head : they have seen, in the negotiation by the Executive, and in the unanimous ratification by the Senate, of the treaty with Spain, and in the universal satisfaction at that event throughout the United States, a decisive proof how unfounded were the suspicions propagated among them of a policy in the General Government and in the Atlantic States, unfriendly to their interests in regard to the *Mississippi* : they have been witnesses to the formation of two treaties, that with Great-Britain and that with Spain, which secure to them every thing they could desire, in respect to our foreign relations, towards confirming their prosperity. Will it not be their wisdom to rely for the preservation of these advantages on the UNION by which they were procured ? Will they not henceforth be deaf to those advisers, if such there are, who would sever them from their brethren, and connect them with aliens ?

To the efficacy and permanency of your Union, a government for the whole is indispensable

—No alliances, however strict, between the parts, can be an adequate substitute: they must inevitably experience the infractions and interruptions which all alliances in all times have experienced. Sensible of this momentous truth, you have improved upon your first essay, by the adoption of a constitution of government better calculated than your former, for an intimate Union, and for the efficacious management of your common concerns. This government, the offspring of our own choice, uninfluenced and unawed, adopted upon full investigation and mature deliberation, completely free in its principles, in the distribution of its powers, uniting security with energy, and containing within itself a provision for its own amendment, has a just claim to your confidence and your support. Respect for its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of true Liberty. The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and alter their Constitutions of Government—But, the constitution which at any time exists till changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. The very idea of the power and the right of the people to establish government presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established government.

All obstructions to the execution of the Laws, all combinations and associations, under whatever plausible character, with the real design to di-

rect, control, counteract, or awe the regular deliberation and action of the constituted authorities, are destructive of this fundamental principle, and of fatal tendency. They serve to organize faction, to give it an artificial and extraordinary force—to put in the place of the delegated will of the nation, the will of a party, often a small but artful and enterprising minority of the community ; and, according to the alternate triumphs of different parties to make the public administration the mirror of the ill-concerted and incongruous projects of factions, rather than the organ of consistent and wholesome plans digested by common councils, and modified by mutual interests. However combinations or associations of the above description may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely in the course of time and things to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people, and to usurp to themselves the reins of government ; destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.

Towards the preservation of your government and the permanency of your present happy state, it is requisite, not only that you speedily discountenance irregular oppositions to its acknowledged authority, but also that you resist with care the spirit of innovation upon its principles however specious the pretexts. One method of assault may be to effect in the forms

of the constitution alterations which will impair the energy of the system and thus to undermine what cannot be directly overthrown. In all the changes to which you may be invited, remember that time and habit are at least as necessary to fix the true character of governments, as of other human institutions—that experience is the surest standard, by which to test the real tendency of the existing constitution of a country—that facility in changes upon the credit or mere hypothesis and opinion, exposes to perpetual change from the endless variety of hypothesis and opinion : and remember, especially, that for the efficient management of your common interests, in a country so extensive as ours, a government of as much vigor as is consistent with the perfect security of liberty, is indispensable. Liberty itself will find in such a government, with powers properly distributed and adjusted, its surest guardian. It is, indeed, little else than a name where the government is too feeble to withstand the enterprises of faction, to confine each member of the society within the limits prescribed by the laws, and to maintain all in the secure and tranquil enjoyment of the rights of person and property.

I have already intimated to you, the danger of parties in the state, with particular reference to the founding of them on geographical discriminations. Let me now take a more comprehensive view, and warn you in the most solemn man-

ner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party, generally. This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind.—It exists under different shapes in all governments, more or less stifled, controlled, or repressed ; but in those of the popular form, it is seen in its greatest rankness, and is truly their worst enemy. The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissention, which, in different ages and Countries, has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself frightful despotism.—But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism.—The disorders and miseries, which result, gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual ; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of public Liberty.

Without looking forward to an extremity of this kind (which nevertheless ought not to be entirely out of sight) the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it. It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms :

kindles the animosity of one part against another, foments occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which find a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another.

There is an opinion that parties in free-countries are useful checks upon the administration of the government, and serve to keep alive the spirit of liberty. This within certain limits is probably true ; and in governments of a monarchical cast, patriotism may look with indulgence, if not with favor, upon the spirit of party. But in those of a popular character, in governments purely elective, it is a spirit not to be encouraged. From their natural tendency, it is certain there will always be enough of that spirit for every salutary purpose. And there being constant danger of excess, the effort ought to be by force of public opinion, to mitigate and assuage it. A fire not to be quenched ; it demands a uniform vigilance to prevent its bursting into a flame, lest, instead of warming, it should consume.

It is important likewise, that the habits of thinking in a free country, should inspire caution, in those entrusted with its administration, to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department to encroach upon another.

The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one, and create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism. A just estimate of that love of power, and proneness to abuse it, which predominates in the human heart is sufficient to satisfy us of the truth of this position. The necessity of reciprocal checks in the exercise of political power, by dividing and distributing it into different depositories, and constituting each the guardian of public weal against invasions by the others, has been evinced by experiments ancient and modern; some of them in our country and under our own eyes. To preserve them must be as necessary as to institute them. If, in the opinion of the people, the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way which the constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for tho' this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed. The precedent must always greatly overbalance in permanent evil any partial or transient benefit which the use can at any time yield.

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports,—In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness,

these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens.—The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked, where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation DESERT the oaths, which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice; and let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure; reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle. 'Tis substantially true, that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule indeed extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Who that is a sincere friend to it can look with indifference upon the attempts to shake the foundation of the fabrick?

Promote then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge.—In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to a public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened. As a very important source of strength and security, cherish public credit, one method of preserving it is to use it as sparingly as possible; avoiding occasions of expense by cultivating peace; but remembering also that timely disbur-

sements to prepare for danger, frequently prevent much greater disbursements to repel it ; avoiding likewise the accumulatiions of debt, not only by shunning occasions of expense, but by vigorous exertions in time of peace to discharge the debts which unavoidable wars may have occasioned, not ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burden which we ourselves ought to bear.— The execution of these maxims belongs to your representatives, but it is necessary that public opinion should co-operate. To facilitate to them the performance of their duty, it is essential that you should practically bear in mind, that towards the payment of debts there must be revenue : to have revenue there must be taxes : that no taxes can be devised which are not more or less inconvenient and unpleasant ; that the intrinsic embarrassment inseparable from the selection of the proper object (which is always a choice of difficulties) ought to be a decisive motive for a candid construction of the conduct of the government in making it, and for a spirit of acquiescence in the measures for obtaining revenue which the public exigences may at any time dictate.

Observe good faith and justice towards all nations ; cultivate peace and harmony with all ; religion and morality enjoin this conduct ; and can it be that good policy does not equally enjoin it ? It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and, at no distant period, a great nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel exam-

ple of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence. Who can doubt that in the course of time and things, the fruits of such a plan would richly repay any temporary advantages which might be lost by a steady adherence to it? Can it be, that Providence has not connected the permanent felicity of a nation with its virtue? The experiment, at least, is recommended by every sentiment which ennobles human nature. Alas! is it rendered impossible by its vices?

In the execution of such a plan, nothing is more essential than that permanent inveterate antipathies against particular nations, and passionate attachments for others should be excluded, and that in place of them just and amicable feelings towards all should be cultivated. The nation, which indulges towards another an habitual hatred, or an habitual fondness, is in some degree a slave. It is a slave to its animosity or to its affection, either of which is sufficient to lead it astray from its duty and its interest. Antipathy in one nation against another disposes each more readily to offer insult and injury, to lay hold of slight causes of umbrage, and to be haughty and intractable, when accidental or trifling occasions of dispute occur. Hence frequent collisions, obstinate envenomed and bloody contests. The nation prompted by ill will and resentment, sometimes impels to war the government, contrary to the best calculations of policy. The government sometimes participates in the nation-

al propensity, and adopts through passion what reason would reject; at other times, it makes the animosity of the nation subservient to projects of hostility instigated by pride, ambition and other sinister and pernicious motives. The peace often, sometimes perhaps the liberty of nations has been the victim.

So likewise a passionate attachment of one nation for another produces a variety of evils,— Sympathy for the favourite nation, facilitating the illusion of an imaginary common interest, in cases where no real common interest exists, and infusing into one the enmities of the other, betrays the former into a participation in the quarrels and wars of the latter, without adequate inducement or justification. It leads also to concessions to the favourite nation of privileges denied to others which is apt doubly to injure the nation making the concessions; by unnecessarily parting with what ought to have been retained; and by exciting jealousy, ill will, and a disposition to retaliate, in the parties from whom equal privileges are withheld; And it gives to ambitious, corrupted, or deluded citizens (who devote themselves to the favorite nation) facility to betray, or sacrifice the interests of their country, without odium, sometimes even with popularity; gilding with the appearance of a virtuous sense of obligation, a commendable deference for public opinion, or a laudible zeal for public good, the base or foolish compliances of ambition, corruption or infatuation.

As avenues to foreign influence in innumerable ways, such attachments are particularly alarming to the truly enlightened and independent patriot. How many opportunities do they afford to tamper with domestic factions, to practice the arts of seduction, to mislead public opinion, to influence or awe the public councils! Such an attachment of small or weak, towards a great and powerful nation, dooms the former to be the satellite of the latter. Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence, (I conjure you to believe me, fellow citizens) the jealousy of a free people ought to be **CONSTANTLY** awake; since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government. But that jealousy, to be useful, must be impartial: else it becomes the instrument of the very influence to be avoided, instead of a defence against it.—Excessive partiality for one foreign nation, and excessive dislike of another, cause those whom they actuate, to see danger only on one side and serve to veil and even second the arts of influence on the other. Real patriots, who may resist the intrigues of the favorite, are liable to become suspected and odious; while its tools and dupes usurp the applause and confidence of the people, to surrender their interests. The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations, is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little **POLITICAL** connection as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements, let

them be fulfilled with perfect good faith.—Here let us stop.

Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none, or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves by artificial ties, in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics, or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships, or enmities. Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a different course. If we remain one people, under an efficient government, the period is not far off, when we may defy material injury from external annoyance; when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality, we may at any time resolve upon, to be scrupulously respected; when belligerent nations, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provocation; when we may choose peace or war, as our interest, guided by justice, shall counsel.

Why forego the advantages of so peculiar a situation? Why quit our own to stand upon foreign ground? Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalry, interest, humor or caprice? 'Tis our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances, with any portion of the foreign world;

so far, I mean as we are now at liberty to do it ; for let me not be understood as capable of patronising infidelity to existing engagements. I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than to private affairs, that honesty is always the best policy. I repeat it, therefore, let those engagements be observed in their genuine sense. But, in my opinion, it is unnecessary, and would be unwise, to extend them. Taking care always to keep ourselves, by suitable establishments, on a respectable defensive posture, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies.

Harmony, liberal intercourse with all nations, are recommended by policy, humanity, and interest. But even our commercial policy should hold an equal and impartial hand ; neither seeking nor granting exclusive favors or preferences ; consulting the natural course of things ; diffusing and diversifying by gentle means the streams of commerce, but forcing nothing ; establishing, with powers so disposed, in order to give trade a stable course, to define the rights of our merchants, and to enable the government to support them, conventional rules of intercourse, the best that present circumstances and mutual opinion will permit, but temporary, and liable to be from time to time abandoned or varied, as experience and circumstances shall dictate ; constantly keeping in view, that 'tis folly in one nation to look for disinterested favors from

another ; that it must pay with a portion of its independence for whatever it may accept under that character ; that by such acceptance, it may place itself in the condition of having given equivalents for nominal favors, and yet of being reproached with ingratitude for not giving more. There can be no greater error than to expect, or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation. 'Tis an illusion which experience must cure, which a just pride ought to discard.

In offering to you, my countrymen, these counsels of an old affectionate friend, I dare not hope they will make the strong and lasting impression I could wish : that they will controul the usual current of the passions, or prevent our nation from running the course which has hitherto marked the destiny of nations : But, if I may even flatter myself, that they may be productive of some partial benefit, some occasional good ; that they may now and then recur to moderate the fury of party spirit, to warn against the mischiefs of foreign intrigues, and guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism ; this hope will be a full recompence for the solicitude for your welfare, by which they have been dictated. How far in the discharge of my official duties, I have been guided by the principles which have been delineated, the public records and other evidences of my conduct must witness to you and to the world. To myself, the assurance of my own

conscience is, that I have at least believed myself to be guided by them.

In relation to the still subsisting war in Europe, my proclamation of the 22d of April, 1793, is the index to my plan. Sanctioned by your approving voice and by that of your representatives in both houses of congress, the spirit of that measure has continually governed me ; uninfluenced by any attempt to deter or divert me from it. After deliberate examination, with the aid of the best lights I could obtain, I was well satisfied that our country, under all the circumstances of the case, had a right to take, and was bound in duty and interest, to take a neutral position. Having taken it, I determined, as far as should depend upon me, to maintain it, with moderation, perseverance and firmness.

The consideration which respects the right to hold the conduct, it is not necessary on this occasion to detail. I will only observe, that according to my understanding of the matter, that right, so far from being denied by any of the belligerent powers, has been virtually admitted by all. The duty of holding a neutral conduct may be inferred, without any thing more, from the obligations which justice and humanity impose upon every nation, in cases in which it is free to act, to maintain inviolate the relations of peace and amity towards other nations. The inducements of interest for observing that conduct will best be referred to your own reflections and experience. With

me, a predominant motive has been to endeavor to gain time to our country to settle and mature its yet recent institutions, and to progress without interruption, to that degree of strength and consistency, which is necessary to give it, humanly speaking, the command of its own fortunes.

Tho' in reviewing the incidents of my administration, I am unconscious of intentional error : I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects not to think it propable that I may have committed many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to which they may tend. I shall also carry with me the hope that my country will never cease to view them with indulgence ; and that after forty-five years of my life dedicated to its service, with an upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest. Relying on its kindness in this as in the other things, and actuated by that fervent love towards it, which is so natural to a man, who views in it the native soil of himself and his progenitors for several generations ; I anticipate with pleasing expectation that retreat, in which I promise myself to realize, without alloy the sweet enjoyment of partaking, in the midst of my fellow citizens, the benign influence of good laws under a free government—the ever favourite object of my heart, and the happy reward, as I trust, of our mutual cares, labors and dangers.

SIR WILLIAM WALLACE'S BOX.

Philadelphia, 4th Jan. 1792.

On Friday last was presented to the President of the United States, George Washington, a Box elegantly mounted with silver, and made of the celebrated oak tree that sheltered the patriotic SIR WILLIAM WALLACE of Scotland, after the unfortunate battle of Falkirk about the year 1300. This very curious and characteristical present is from the Earl of Buchan, by the hand of Mr. Archibald Robertson, a Scotch gentleman, and a portrait painter, who arrived in America some months ago. The Box was presented to Lord Buchan by the Goldsmiths Company of Edinburgh; from whom his Lordship requested, and obtained leave, to make it over to the Man whom he deemed more deserving of it than himself, and *George Washington was the man.*

We further learn, that, Lord Buchan, has requested of the President, that, on the event of his decease he will consign the Box to that Man, *in this Country*, who shall appear, in his judgment, to merit it best, upon the same considerations that induced him to send it to America.

Upon the Box, which is curiously wrought, is a silver plate with the following inscription: "*Presented by the Goldsmiths of Edinburgh to David Stewart Erskine, Earl of Buchan, with the Freedom of their Corporation, by their Deacon—*
A. D. 1791."

Copy of the LETTER from Lord BUCHAN to Gen.
WASHINGTON, accompanying the Box.

Dryburgh Abbey, June 28, 1791.

“ SIR,

“ I had the honour to receive your Excellency’s letter relating to the advertisement of Dr. Anderson’s periodical publication in the Gazette of the United States ; which attention to my recommendation I feel very sensibly, and return you my grateful acknowledgments.

“ In the 21st No. of that literary Miscellany, I inserted a monitory paper respecting America, which I flatter myself, may, if attended to on the other side of the Atlantic, be productive of good consequences

“ To use your own emphatic words, “ May that Almighty Being who rules over the Universe—who presides in the Councils of Nations—and whose providential aid can supply every human defect, consecrate to the Liberties and Happiness of the American people, a government instituted by themselves for public and private security, upon the basis of Law and equal administration of Justice, preserving to every individual as much civil and political freedom as is consistent with the safety of the Nation.”—And may HE be pleased to continue your life and strength as long as you can be in any way useful to your Country !

“ I have entrusted this sheet inclosed in a Box, made of the Oak that sheltered our Great Sir William Wallace, after the battle of Falkirk, to

Mr. Robertson, of Aberdeen, a Painter, with the hope of his having the honour of delivering it into your hand; recommending him as an able Artist, seeking for fortune and fame in the New World. This box was presented to me by the Goldsmith's Company at Edinburgh, of whom, feeling my own unworthiness, to receive this magnificently significant present, I requested and obtained leave to make it over to the man in the world to whom I thought it most justly due. Into *your* hands I commit it, requesting of you to pass it, on the event of your decease, to the Man in your own country who shall appear to your judgement to merit it best, upon the same considerations that have induced me to send it to your Excellency.

“ I am, Sir, with the highest esteem,
Your Excellency's most obedient,
And obliged humble servant,

BUCHAN.

“ P. S.—I beg your Excellency will have the goodness to send me your Portrait, that I may place it among those I most honour, and I would wish it from the pencil of Mr. Robertson. I beg leave to recommend him to your countenance, as he has been mentioned to me favourably by my worthy friend, Professor Ogilvie, of King's College, Aberdeen.”

Gen. WASHINGTON'S ANSWER.

Philadelphia, 1st May, 1792.

My Lord,

“ I should have had the honor of acknowledging sooner that receipt of your letter of the 28th of June last, had I not concluded to defer doing it till I could announce to you the transmission of my portrait, which has just been finished by Mr. Robertson (of New-York) who has also undertaken to forward it. The manner of the execution of it does no discredit, I am told, to the artist, of whose skill favourable mention has been made to me. I was further induced to entrust the execution of it to Mr. Robertson, from his having informed me that he had drawn others for your Lordship, and knew the size which best suited your collection.

“ I accept with sensibility and with satisfaction, the significant present of the box which accompanied your Lordship's letter.

“ In yielding the tribute due from every lover of mankind to the patriotic and heroic virtues of which it is commemorative, I estimate; as I ought, the additional value which it derives from the hand that sent it, and my obligations for the sentiments that induced the transfer.

“ I will, however, ask that you will exempt me from the compliance with the request relating to its eventual destination.

“ In an attempt to execute your wish in this particular, I should feel embarrassment from a just comparison of relative pretensions, and fear to risk injustice by so marked a preference.

“ With sentiments of the truest esteem and consideration, I remain your Lordship's most obedient servant,

Earl of Buchan.

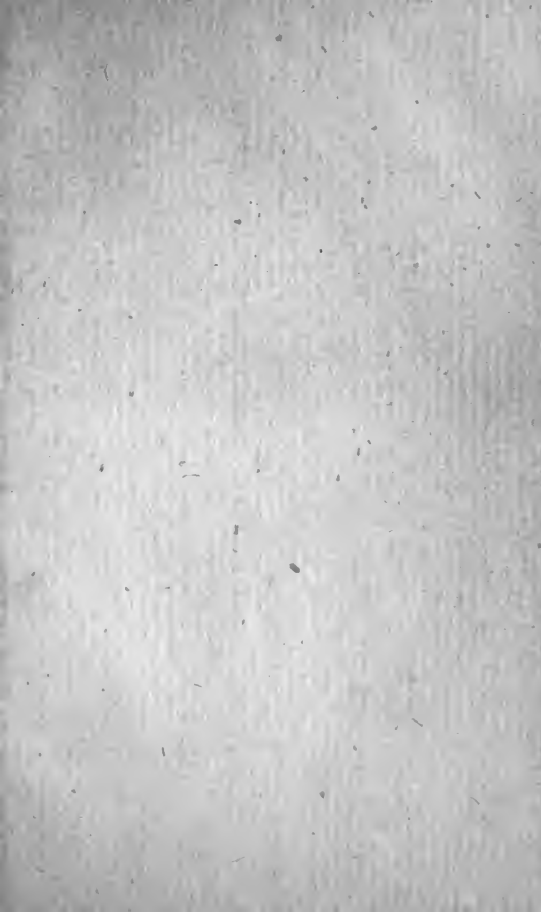
G. WASHINGTON.

EXTRACT from Gen. Washington's WILL.

Item—To the Earl of Buchan I re-commit “ the Box made of the Oak that sheltered the brave Sir William Wallace after the battle of Falkirk,” presented to me by his Lordship in terms too flattering for me to repeat, with a request “ to pass it on the event of my decease, to the man in my country who appeared to merit it best, upon the same conditions that have induced him to send it to me.—Whether easy or not, to select *the Man* who might comport with his Lordship's opinion in this respect, is not for me to say : but conceiving that no disposition of this valuable curiosity can be more eligible than the re-commitment of it to his own cabinet, agreeably to the original design of the Goldsmiths' Company of Edinburgh, who presented it to him, and, at his request consented that it should be transferred to me—I do give and bequeath the same to his Lordship ; and in case of his decease to his heir, with my grateful thanks for the distinguished honour of presenting it to me, and more especially for the favourable sentiments with which he accompanied it.

Locks last leaf









Engraved for the Washington Benevolent Society



LIFE
OF
GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON,
LATE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA.
AND
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THEIR ARMIES;
DURING THE
REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

Dedicated to the Youth of America.

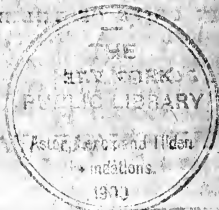
by *Edwin Loring*
POUGHKEEPSIE :

PRINTED BY PARACLETE POTTER,

Main Street,

1812.

1814



14944

LIFE
OF
GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON.



In the history of man, we contemplate with particular satisfaction, those legislators, heroes, and philosophers, whose wisdom, valour, and virtue have contributed to the happiness of the human species. We trace the luminous progress of those excellent beings with secret complacency; our emulation is roused, while we behold them steadily pursue the path of rectitude, in defiance of every obstruction; we rejoice that we are of the same species, and thus Self-love becomes the hand maid of virtue.

The authentic pages of Biography unite the most grateful amusement with instruction.— Truth supports the dignity of the Historic Muse who will not admit either of fulsome panegyric, or invidious censure. She describes her hero with genuine simplicity—mentions his frailties, his characteristic peculiarities, and his shining qualities. In short, she gives a faithful and lively portrait of the man, investigates the latest motives of his actions, and celebrates those virtues which have raised him to an enviable pre-eminence above his cotemporaries.

We sympathize in the sufferings, and participate the triumphs of those illustrious men who stand

“ Majestic 'mid the monuments of time :” and the approbation of excellence in others, naturally leads the mind to imitate the object of its adoration.

Among those patriots who have a claim to our veneration, George Washington appears in a conspicuous place in the first rank. The ancestors of this extraordinary man, in the year 1657, emigrated from England to America, and settled in the colony of Virginia; here by unremitting industry they became opulent and respectable, and gave their name to the parish of Washington, in Westmoreland county.—George Washington, the hero of the following history, was the fruit of a second marriage, and was born in the settlement of Chotank, in the above mentioned county, on the 11th of February, (O. S.) 1732.

The extensive settlement of Chotank was originally purchased by the Washington family; the extreme fertility of the soil induced those settlers to cultivate tobacco in several plantations; for this purpose they purchased a number of negro slaves, and, consequently population was rapidly increased. At the time our hero was born, all the planters throughout this extensive settlement were his relations—hence his youthful years glided

away in all the pleasing gaiety of social friendship. He received a private education, and was initiated in the elements of religion, morality, and science, by a private tutor; and from the tenor of his actions it is manifest, that uncommon pains were taken to cherish the best propensities of human nature in his heart.

In the 10th year of his age, he had the misfortune to lose an excellent father, who died in 1742, and the patrimonial estate devolved to an elder brother.—This young gentleman had been an officer, in the colonial troops sent in the expedition against Carthagena. On his return he called the family mansion Mount Vernon, in honour of the British Admiral, and destined his brother George to serve in the navy.

Accordingly in his 15th year, our hero was entered as a mid-shipman, on board a British frigate, stationed on the coast of Virginia. He prepared to embark, with all the alacrity of youth; but his nautical career was stopped by the interposition of maternal love. Ever obedient to an affectionate mother, young Washington relinquished his desire of going to sea; the energies of his mind were to be exerted on a more stable element.

As his patrimonial estate was by no means considerable, his youth was employed in useful industry: and in the practice of his pre-

profession as a surveyor, he had an opportunity of acquiring that information respecting vacant lands, and of forming those opinions concerning their future value, which, afterwards, greatly contributed to the increase of his private fortune.

The first proof that he gave of his propensity to arms was in the year 1751, when the office of Adjutant-General of the Virginia militia became vacant by the death of his brother, and Mount Vernon, together with a large estate, came into his possession. At this time, the extensive population of the colony, made it expedient to form the militia corps into three divisions, and Washington, in his 20th year, was appointed Major. He attended to his duty, as an officer, with exemplary propriety and vigilance—was indefatigable in the discipline of the troops—and generally beloved both by his brother officers and the private men, for his mildness and generosity,

In the year 1753, the encroachments of the French upon the western boundaries of the British Colonies excited a general alarm in Virginia, insomuch that governor Dinwiddie deputed Washington to ascertain the truth of those rumours: he was also empowered to enter into a treaty with the Indians, and remonstrate with the French upon their proceedings. On his arrival at the back settlements, he found the colonists in a very unpleasant

situation, from the depredations of the Indians, who were incessantly instigated by the French to the commission of new aggressions. He found that the French themselves had also committed several outrages against the defenceless settlers ; nay, that they had proceeded so far as to establish posts within the boundaries of Virginia. Washington strongly remonstrated against those acts of hostility, and warned the French to desist from the incursions. On his return, his report to the Governor was published, and it evinced that he performed this honourable mission with great prudence.

The repeated inroads of the French and Indians on the frontiers of Virginia, made it necessary to encrease the military establishment; and early in the spring of 1754, a new regiment was raised, of which professor Fry, of the college was appointed Col. and Washington lieutenant-colonel. Mr. Fry died soon after the regiment was embodied, and was succeeded by our hero, who paid unremitting attention to the discipline of this new corps. He established magazines of provision and ammunition, and opened the roads to the frontiers in order to pre-occupy an important post at the confluence of the Monongahela, and Allegany rivers. His regiment was to have been reinforced by a detachment from the southern colonies, and a corps of provincials from North

Carolina and Maryland; but impelled by the urgency of the occasion, he advanced without the expected succours in the month of May. The troops proceeded by forced marches towards the defile, and their commander dispatched two scouts to reconnoitre; but though his rapid march was facilitated by the fine weather, yet, when he ascended the Laurel-Hills, fifty miles distant from the place of destination, he was met by his scouts who returned with intelligence that the enemy were in possession of the post, had built a fort and stationed a large garrison there. Washington now held a council of war with the other officers, but while they were deliberating a detachment of the French came in sight, and obliged them to retreat to a savanna called the Green Meadows.

The fortitude of Washington was put to a severe test on this occasion, he retired with the troops to an eminence in the savanna, and about noon began to erect a small fortification. He called his temporary defence Fort Necessity, and encouraged the regiment both by his voice and example, to raise a redoubt on which they planted two field pieces. They surrounded the camp with an entrenchment in which they toiled with unremitting exertions during the subsequent night. Thus fortified; they prepared to resist the meditated attack of the enemy: and about sunrise on the fol-

lowing morning, were joined by Capt. M'Kay, with a company of regulars. The little army now amounted to about 400 men. On the approach of the advanced guard of the French, the Americans sallied forth, attacked and defeated them; but the main body of the enemy, amounting to 1500 men, compelled them to retire to the entrenchments.—The camp was now closely invested, and the Americans suffered severely from the grape shot of the enemy and the Indian riflemen. Washington however, defended the works with such skill and bravery, that the besiegers were unable to force the entrenchments. At length, after a conflict of ten hours, in which 150 of the Americans were killed and wounded, they were obliged to capitulate. They were permitted to march out with the honours of war, and lay down their arms in front of the French lines; but they were afterwards plundered by the hostile Indians, during their return to Virginia.

This defeat excited a strong emotion of sorrow in the breasts of their countrymen; and though several persons censured the precipitance of Washington in this affair, yet the general conviction of his integrity prevented those murmurs from doing him any injury. Indeed his conduct was liable to censure; he ought to have waited for the necessary reinforcements, a junction with whom would prob-

ably have crowned his enterprize with success. His inexperience and the active ardor of his youthful mind, may afford some palliation of his imprudence ; but his rashness in this instance was so different from his subsequent prudence, that probably this inauspicious commencement of his military career, was the origin of the circumspection and vigilance which afterwards marked his conduct in a successful defensive war.

Let us for a moment enquire into the cause of these unprovoked hostilities of the French against the British colonies. As France for many centuries had been the professed rival of England, she beheld the rapid prosperity of these colonies, and the consequent aggrandizement of the mother country, with envious apprehension. The French government had made settlements in North America, and divided this vast continent into two provinces ; The northern was called Canada, and the southern Louisiana. But as the principal part of this territory was, comparatively, barren and uncultivated, the French formed the ambitious project of obtaining possession of the British settlement by force. For this purpose they erected a chain of forts which extended throughout an immense tract of country. These fortifications were garrisoned by troops well supplied by military stores : but the circumjacent regions were totally uninhabited,

except by hunting parties of the wandering Indians.

The French engaged these savages in their interest, by supplying them with arms and ammunition in exchange for rich furs. Thus they obtained the alliance of a formidable and enterprizing race, who naturally hated the British colonist whom they considered as the original invaders of their country.

In the summer of 1754, the French having built several forts within the boundaries of the British settlements, an army of veterans was sent from France to support those unjustifiable encroachments. We have already mentioned their victory over the troops commanded by Washington, and that they had erected a fort at an advantageous post, which it had been his determination to secure. They named this fortress Du Quesne, in which they stationed a strong garrison well provided with military stores. Those hostile measures on the part of France, excited the indignation of the English government, and orders were issued to make general reprisals in Europe and America.

In the year 1755, General Braddock was sent to America, at the head of two veteran regiments from Ireland, to reduce the forts on the Ohio. On his arrival, he was joined by the independent and provincial corps of America: but when the army was ready to march against

the enemy, the want of waggons for the conveyance of stores, had almost proved an insurmountable obstacle to the expedition. In this emergency a patriotic American stepped forward and removed the difficulty; this was the celebrated Benjamin Franklin, whose extraordinary talents had already contributed to the diffusion of knowledge and happiness. This benign philosopher exerted his influence so effectually with his countrymen, that in a short time he collected 150 waggons, which proved an ample supply for the army.

As in consequence of a military regulation, "no officer who did not derive his commission from the King could command one who did," Washington resigned: but strongly attached to a military life, and emulous to defend his country with distinguished zeal, he voluntarily served under Gen. Braddock as an extra aide-camp. That General marched against fort Du Quesne; but soon after he crossed the river Monongahela, the van division of his army was attacked by an ambuscade of French and Indians, and totally defeated. The thickness of the woods prevented both the European and provincial troops from being able to defend themselves with effect: they could neither keep their ranks nor charge the enemy with the bayonet, while the Indians who were expert at bush fighting, and were widely scattered, fired at them in all directions from

behind the trees where they were concealed from their foes, and took a fatal aim. Washington had cautioned Gen. Braddock in vain : his ardent desire of conquest made him deaf to the voice of prudence : he saw his error when too late, and bravely perished in his endeavours to save the division from destruction. The gallant but unfortunate general had four horses shot from under him before he was slain, and almost every officer whose duty obliged him to be on horseback, was either killed or wounded except Washington. Amid the carnage, the presence of mind, and abilities of our hero, were conspicuous ; he rallied the troops, and, at the head of a corps of grenadiers, covered the rear of the division and secured their retreat over the ford of Monongahela.

Anxious for the preservation of the troops, and unmindful of the fatigues he had undergone, during a sultry day, in which he had scarcely a moment of rest, he hastened to concert measures with Colonel Dunbar, who commanded the rear division, which had not been engaged. Neither the wilderness through which he was obliged to pass, the innumerable dangers that surrounded him in his progress, nor his exhausted state could prevent him from pursuing the line of his duty. He travelled during the night accompanied by two guides, and reached the British camp in safety. Thus his perseverance and wisdom

saved the residue of the troops. Colonel Dunbar now assumed the chief command ; and with considerable difficulty effected a retreat, but was obliged to destroy his baggage to prevent it from falling into the hands of the enemy. Washington received the most flattering marks of public approbation ; but his best reward was the consciousness of his own integrity.

Soon after this transaction, the regulation of rank, which had justly been considered as a grievance by the colonial officers, was changed in consequence of a spirited remonstrance of Washington ; and the governor of Virginia rewarded this brave officer with the command of all the troops of that colony. The natural energy of his mind was now called into action ; and his thoughts were continually employed in forming new plans for the protection of the frontiers.

We may form some idea of his increasing popularity, and the high estimation in which he was held by his countrymen, from the following curious prediction. It was published in the notes of a sermon preached by the Rev. Samuel Davies, on the 17th of August, 1755, to Capt. Overton's independent company of Volunteers, raised in Hannover county, Virginia. "As a remarkable instance of patriotism, I may point out that heroic youth, Col. Washington, whom I cannot but hope Provi-

dence has hitherto preserved in so signal a manner, for some important service to his country." What renders this prophecy the more worthy of notice, is its having been delivered twenty years prior to the commencement of the war, which terminated in American Independence

In the year 1758, Washington commanded the van brigade of the army under Gen. Forbes, and distinguished himself by the capture of Fort du Quesne. During this successful campaign, he acquired a knowledge of tactics. His frequent skirmishes with the French and Indians, in the woody regions along the frontiers taught him vigilance and circumspection, and roused that spirit of enterprize, which is ever ready to seize the crisis that leads to victory. The troops under his command were gradually inured in that most difficult kind of warfare called bush fighting, while the activity of the French and ferocity of the Indians were overcome by his superior valour. After the enemy had been defeated in several battles, and compelled to retreat far beyond the Colonial boundaries, General Forbes left a sufficient garrison in the different forts which he had captured along the banks of the Ohio, and returned with the army into winter quarters.

In the course of this decisive campaign, which restored the tranquility and security of the middle colonies, Washington had suffered

many hardships which impaired his health. He was afflicted with an inveterate pulmonary complaint, and extremely debilitated, inso-much that in the year of 1759, he resigned his commission and retired to Mount Vernon. The Virginia line expressed their high sense of his merit, by an affectionate address on this occasion; and his answer was marked with that modesty and magnanimity which were the prominent traits of his mind.

By a due attention to regimen, in the quiet bowers of Mount Vernon, he gradually recovered from his indisposition. But, as during the tedious period of his convalescence the British arms had been victorious, his country had no more occasion for the exertion of his military talents. In 1761, he married a young widow, whose maiden name was Dandridge. She was descended from a reputable family, and two of her brothers were officers in the British navy. This lady was the widow of Colonel Custis, who had left her sole executrix to his extensive possessions, and guardian to his two children. The union of Washington with this accomplished woman was productive of their mutual felicity; and as he incessantly pursued agricultural improvements, his taste embellished and enriched the fertile fields around Mount Vernon. Meanwhile he was appointed a magistrate, a member of the assembly of the state, and a judge

of the court. These honourable avocations kept the powers of his mind in a state of activity ; he attended to his civil duties with exemplary propriety, and gave a convincing proof, that the simplicity of the farmer is homogeneal with the dignified views of the Senator.

But the time approached, in which Washington was to relinquish those honourable civil avocations, and one of the most remarkable events recorded in history obliged him to act a conspicuous part on the great theatre of the world. The American Revolution originated in the errors of a few British politicians, and the joint exertions of a number of public spirited men among the colonists, who incited their country-men to resist parliamentary taxation.

In March 1764, a bill passed in the British Parliament, laying heavy duties on all articles imported into the Colonies from the French and other islands in the West-Indies, and ordering these duties to be paid in specie into the Exchequer of Great-Britain. In the same session, another bill was formed, to restrain the currency of paper money in the Colonies. These acts excited the surprise and displeasure of the North Americans. They sent warm and energetic remonstrances to the Mother-country, and laid every argument before the Ministry that ingenuity could suggest.

but in vain. As they had hitherto furnished their contingent in men and money, by the authority of their Representatives in the Colonial Assemblies, they asserted, that not being represented in the British Parliament, it could have no right to tax them.—Finding, however, that all their arguments were ineffectual to remove their grievances, they formed associations to prevent the use of British manufactures, till they should obtain redress.

The animosity of the Colonists, was farther, increased, by the advice which they received, that the British Ministry had it in contemplation to establish stamp-duties in America, similar to those in Great-Britain.

The General Assembly of Virginia was the first that openly and formally declared against the right of Britain to lay taxes on America. Of this Assembly Washington was a member; he most zealously opposed what he considered an encroachment on the liberties of his countrymen: and the example of this legislative body was followed by those of the other colonies.

In June 1765, the Assembly of Massachusetts, from the conviction of the expediency of a Continental Congress, passed a resolution in favour of that measure, and sent circular letters to the several Assemblies requesting their concurrence. Accordingly, a deputation from 10 of the Colonies met at New-York,

and this was the first Congress held in North America.

In consequence of a petition from this Congress to the King and both houses of Parliament, the stamp act was repealed, to the universal joy of the Colonists, and the general satisfaction of the English, whose manufactures had suffered a considerable depression in consequence of the American associations against their importation.

But, the Parliament, by repealing this obnoxious act, did not relinquish the idea of their right to tax the Colonies; and the bill for laying a duty on tea, paper, painters colours, and glass, was passed, and sent to America, in 1768. This act occasioned new discontents in the Colonies, especially at Boston; and though Parliament thought proper, in 1770, to take off those duties, except 3*d.* a pound on tea, yet even this trifling impost kept alive the jealousy of the Colonists, who denied the supremacy of the British Legislature. The troops quartered in Boston was another cause of offence to the inhabitants, and, on all occasions, they manifested an inclination to quarrel with men whom they considered inimical to their liberties.

The animosity of the people of that Colony, against their Governor, Hutchinson, was increased by the discovery that he had written letters to people in power in England, which

contained a misrepresentation of the state of public affairs, and recommended coercive measures, in order to secure the obedience of the province. These letters fell into the hands of Dr. Franklin, agent of the province, who transmitted them to Boston. The Assembly passed a petition to his Majesty, by a large majority, in which they declared their Governor and Lieutenant-Governor enemies to the Colonies, and prayed for their dismissal from office. This petition was not only rejected, but declared to be groundless and scandalous.

About this time, Dr. Franklin was dismissed from the office of Deputy Post-master-General of America, which he held under the Crown. But it was not merely by his transmission of the letters above mentioned that he had offended the British Ministry; he had written two pieces in favour of America, which excited the public attention on both sides of the Atlantic. The one was entitled, "An Edict from the King of Prussia for taxing the inhabitants of Great Britain, as descendants of emigrants from his dominions;" and the other "Rules for reducing a great Empire to a small one." These essays were both written with his peculiar simplicity of style, and abounded with the most poignant satire.

The disputes between Great-Britain and her Colonies had now existed above ten years;

with intervals of tranquility. The reservation of the duty on tea, the stationing a standing army in Massachusetts, the continuance, of a Board of Commissioners in Boston, and the appointing the Governors and Judges of the province, independent of the people, were the causes of that irritation which pervaded all ranks of the community.

In the year 1773, the American controversy was recommenced, in consequence of tea being sent to the Colonies by the East India Company. The Americans now perceived that the tax was likely to be enforced, and were determined to oppose the revenue system of the British Parliament. They considered this attempt of the East India Company as an indirect mode of taxation, and took measures to prevent the landing of the teas. One universal spirit of opposition animated the Colonists from New-Hampshire to Georgia. The province of Massachusetts distinguished itself by the most violent and decisive proceedings. Three ships from England laden with tea, lay in the harbour of Boston; and the townsmen resolved to destroy it rather than suffer it to be landed. For this purpose a number of men disguised like Indians on the 18th of December 1773, entered the ships and threw overboard 342 chests of tea, being the whole of their cargoes.

The Ministry now resolved to enforce their

authority, and as Boston had been the principal scene of outrage, it was determined to punish that town in an exemplary manner. On the 25th of March 1774, an act was passed called the Boston Port Bill, "to discontinue the landing, and discharging, lading, and shipping of goods, wares and merchandize at the town of Boston, or within the harbour."

The news of this bill was received by the Bostonians with the most extravagant tokens of resentment, and during the ferment their new governor, Gen. Gage, arrived from England. This gentleman had been appointed on account of his being an officer of reputation, and a man esteemed by the Americans, among whom he had resided many years. The first official act of his government was the removal of the Assembly to Salem, a town seventeen miles distant.

Virginia again took the lead in a public avowal of its sentiments. The first day of June had been appointed for the Boston Port Act to take place, and on that day the General Assembly of Virginia enjoined a public supplication to heaven. The stile of this injunction was remarkable; the people were directed "to beseech the Deity to give them one heart and one mind, firmly to oppose every invasion of the American Rights." The assembly of Virginia recommended also to the colonies, to appoint a Congress of Del-

legates to deliberate on the critical state of their affairs.

Meanwhile the Bostonians were not inactive. They framed an agreement, which they called a solemn League and Covenant, by which the subscribers engaged in the most religious manner, "to discontinue all commercial intercourse with Great Britain, after the expiration of the month of August, till the late obnoxious acts were repealed, and the colony re-possessed of its charter." Resolutions of a similar nature were entered into by the other provinces; and when General Gage attempted to counteract the covenant by a proclamation, the Americans retorted, by insisting, that the law allowed subjects to associate in order to obtain redress of their grievances.

In the month of September 1774, the General Congress of all the Colonies met at Philadelphia. That body consisted of fifty-one delegates, chosen by the representatives of each province.

The first act of the Continental Congress, was their approbation of the conduct of the Bostonians, and an exhortation to them to persevere in their opposition to government, till the restoration of their charter.—They avowed their allegiance to his Majesty, and drew up a petition, in which they entreated him to grant them peace, liberty, and safety. After several resolutions tending to promote

unanimity in the provinces, and after having resolved that another Congress should meet in Philadelphia on the 10th of May following, if their grievances should not be redressed, they recommended to the people the speedy nomination of new delegates, and then separated.

Meanwhile reinforcements of British troops arrived at Boston, which increased the general disaffection to such a degree, that the people were ready to rise at a moment's warning. The Colonists now began seriously to prepare for war : embodied and trained their militia ; and to render themselves independent of foreigners for the supply of military stores, they erected Mills and manufactories, for gunpowder, both in Philadelphia and Virginia.

These hostile preparations induced General Gage to fortify the neck of land which joins the town of Boston to the continent. But though this measure of security was justifiable on the principal of self-defence, the Americans remonstrated against it with the greatest vehemence.—Instead of paying any attention to these invectives, the General seized the provincial ammunition and military stores at Cambridge and Charlestown. This act of hostility excited the popular rage to such a degree, that it was with the utmost difficulty the inhabitants of Massachusetts

could be restrained from marching to Boston to attack the troops.

It was now evident, that the ensuing spring would be the commencement of a war of which even the most resolute dreaded the consequences. The utmost diligence, however, was used by the colonists to be provided against any attack of the British army. A list of men able to bear arms was made out in each province, and the assemblies were animated with the most lively hopes on finding that two thirds of the men who had served in the former war, were alive, and zealous in the cause.

Washington was among the most active in raising troops. His well known intrepidity and generosity obtained him a numerous corps of volunteers; he was appointed their commander, and soon perfected their discipline. He had also been elected a delagate from Virginia to the General Congress, and exerted all his influence to encourage a decisive opposition to British taxation.

The awful moment now approached which was to involve Great Britain and her colonies in all the horrors of a civil war. In February, 1775 the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts met at Cambridge. Several military institutions for the protection of the province were enacted; among the remarkable of which was the minute men. A number of

the most active and expert of the New-England militia were selected, who were obliged to hold themselves in readiness to obey the first summons of their officers; and indeed their subsequent vigilance and intrepidity fully entitled them to the above mentioned appellation.

We pass over the battles of Lexington and Bunker's-Hill and come to the subject of our present memoir. Washington who was a delegate to Congress, from Virginia, was by their unanimous vote, appointed General in Chief of all the American forces. They also voted him as ample a salary as was in their power to bestow—but he generously declined all pecuniary emoluments.—His reply to the President of Congress, on his nomination to the supreme command of the army, was in the following words:

“MR. PRESIDENT,

“Though I am truly sensible of the high honour done me in this appointment, yet I feel great distress from a consciousness that my abilities and military experience may not be equal to the extensive and important trust; however as the Congress desire it, I will enter upon the momentous duty, and exert every power I possess in their service, and for support of the glorious cause. I beg they will accept my most cordial thanks for this distinguished testimony of their approbation.

“ But lest some unlucky event should happen unfavorable to my reputation. I beg it may be remembered by every gentleman in the room, that I this day declare, with the utmost sincerity, I do not think myself equal to the command I am honoured with.

“ As to my pay, I beg leave to assure the Congress, that, as no pecuniary consideration could have tempted me to accept this arduous employment, at the expense of my domestic peace and happiness, I do not wish to make any profit from it. I will keep an exact account of my expenses—those, I doubt not, they will discharge, and this is all I desire.”

This speech is a proof of that disinterestedness and modesty which were the distinguishing characteristics of Washington's mind. In private life he was hospitable and friendly.—These social virtues, together with his tried valour, made him truly estimable in the eyes of his countrymen. His election to the supreme command was attended by no competition—every member of Congress were convinced of his integrity, and chose him as the man best qualified to raise their expectations and fix their confidence.

The appointment of Washington was attended with other promotions, namely, four major-generals, one adjutant general, and eight brigadier-generals.

On the day following, a special commission

was presented to Washington by Congress. At the same time, they resolved unanimously in a full meeting, "That they would maintain and assist him, and adhere to him with their lives and fortunes, in the cause of American liberty." In their instructions, they authorised him "to order and dispose of the army under his command as might be most advantageous for obtaining the end for which it had been raised, making it his special care, in discharge of the great trust committed to him, that the liberties of America received no detriment."

Washington's diffidence on the acceptance of his commission was extremely natural. His comprehensive mind anticipated the numerous difficulties which must attend his employment, and he would gladly have preferred the pleasures of a rural life to all the "pride, pomp, and circumstance of a glorious war."

His taking the command of the American army was therefore a strong exertion of self-denial to an unambitious man, who enjoyed all the real blessings of life in the bosom of independence. Let us, for a moment, turn our attention to his private affairs, and we will behold him blest with the rational pleasures of a philosophical retirement, with his table overspread with plenty, and his pillow smoothed by the hand of conjugal love. Could man desire more?—Was not this the summit of human

happiness? But now when the voice of his country demands his aid, he takes the field, in her defence, with filial attachment.

In the beginning of July, Washington set out for the camp at Cambridge, in order to assume the command of the army. On his way thither, he was treated with every demonstration of respect, escorted by detachments of gentlemen who had formed volunteer associations, and honoured with public addresses of congratulation from the provincial Congress of New-York and Massachusetts.

In answer to these addresses, Washington, after declaring his high sense of the regard shewn him, added, "Be assured, that every exertion of my worthy colleagues and myself will be extended to the re-establishment of peace and harmony between the mother-country and these colonies. As to the fatal, but necessary operations of war, when we assumed the soldier, we did not lay aside the citizen; and we shall most sincerely rejoice with you in the happy hour, when the re-establishment of American liberty, on the most firm and solid foundations, shall enable us to return to our private stations, in the bosom of a free, peaceful, and happy country."

On his arrival at the camp, he was received with the joyful acclamations of the American army. He found the British troops entrenched on Bunker's-Hill, and defended by three

floating batteries in Mystic river, while the Americans were entrenched on Winter-Hill, Prospect-Hill, and Roxbury, with a communication, by small posts, over an extent of ten miles. As the provincial soldiers had repaired to the camp in their ordinary clothing, the hunting shirt was adopted for the sake of uniformity. Washington found a large body of men, indifferently disciplined, and but badly provided with arms and ammunition. Besides, they had neither engineers, nor sufficient tools for the erection of fortifications. He also found uncommon difficulties in the organization of his army. Enterprising leaders had distinguished themselves at the commencement of hostilities, and their followers, from attachment, were not willing to be commanded by officers, who, though appointed by Congress, were strangers to them. To subject the licentiousness of freemen to the control of military discipline, was both an arduous and delicate task. However, the genius of Washington triumphed over all difficulties. In his letter to Congress, after he had reviewed the troops, he says, "I find here excellent materials for an army—able bodied men, of undoubted courage, and zealous in the cause." In the same letter, he complains of the want of ammunition, camp-equipage, and many other requisites of an army.

Washington, at the head of his troops, pub-

lished a declaration, previously drawn up by Congress, expressive of their motives for taking up arms. It was written in energetic language, and contained the following remarkable passages :

“ Were it possible for men, who exercise their reason, to believe that the Divine Author of our existence intended a part of the human race to hold an absolute property in, and unbounded power over others, marked out by his infinite goodness and wisdom as the objects of a legal domination, never rightfully resistable, however severe and oppressive, the inhabitants of these Colonies might, at least, require from the Parliament of Great-Britain some evidence, that this dreadful authority over them has been granted to that body. But a reverence for our great Creator, principles of humanity, and the dictates of common sense, must convince all those who reflect upon the subject, that government was instituted to promote the welfare of mankind, and ought to be administered for the attainment of that end.

“ The Legislature of Great-Britain, however, stimulated by an inordinate passion for power, not only unjustifiable, but which they know to be peculiarly reprobated by the Constitution of that kingdom, and despairing of success in any mode of contest where regard should be had to truth, law, or right, have at length, deserting those, attempted to effect

their cruel and impolitic purpose of enslaving these Colonies by violence, and have thereby rendered it necessary for us to close with their last appeal from Reason to Arms. Yet, however blinded that assembly may be, by their intemperate rage for unlimited domination, so to slight justice and the opinion of mankind, we esteem ourselves bound by obligations of respect to the rest of the world, to make known the justice of our cause."

This bold and explicit manifesto was dated at Philadelphia, the 6th day of July, 1775, and subscribed by John Hancock, President of Congress, and Charles Thompson, Secretary.

A general spirit of unanimity pervaded the colonies at this momentous period. Men of all ranks and ages were animated with martial ardour, even religious prejudices were overcome by patriotic enthusiasm. Several young men of the Quaker persuasion joined the military associations; and the number of men in arms throughout the colonies was very considerable.

Notwithstanding these warlike preparations, the Americans unanimously protested that they took up arms only to obtain a redress of grievances; and that a separation from the parent state was an object foreign to their wishes.—The rancour, however, that accompanies a civil war, was productive of mutual reproaches, and the slightest proof often was keenly

felt as proceeding from those who were once friends.

An instance of this nature happened at Boston, while invested by the provincial army, and produced the memorable correspondence between the respective commanders. The last letter, written by Gen. Washington to General Gage, exhibited a lively portrait of his character and principles as well as those of his countrymen.—It contained the following striking passages :

“ Whether British or American mercy, fortitude and patience, are most pre-eminent ; whether our virtuous citizens, whom the hand of tyranny has forced into arms to defend their property and freedom, or the mercenary and lawless instruments of domination, avarice, revenge, best deserve the appellation of rebels, and the punishment of that cord, which your affected clemency has forborne to inflict ; whether the authority under which I act, is usurped, or founded upon the principles of liberty ; such considerations are altogether foreign to the subject of our correspondence—I purposely avoid all political disquisition ; nor shall I avail myself of those advantages, which the sacred cause of my country, of liberty and human nature give me over you ; much less shall I stoop to retort any invective.

“ You affect, Sir, to despise all rank not derived from the same source with your own. I

cannot conceive one more honourable than that which flows from the uncorrupted choice of a brave and free People, the purest source and original fountain of all power. Far from thinking it a plea for cruelty, a mind of true magnanimity, and enlarged ideas, would comprehend and respect it."

This celebrated letter was by the Americans represented as the most perfect model of the style becoming the Commander in Chief, and the occasion to which it was adapted ; nay, it was commended in different parts of Europe, and even in England, as the most proper answer he could make.

In September, General Gage sailed for England ; and the command of the British army devolved on General Howe.

Meanwhile, the army under Washington continued the blockade of Boston so closely, as to prevent all intercourse between that town and country. The provincial force was formed into three grand divisions, of which General Ward commanded the right wing, General Lee the left, the centre was commanded by Washington. The army was arranged by Gen. Gates, by whose exertions military discipline was gradually and successfully introduced : the officers and privates were taught the necessity of a due subordination, and became expert in the different manœuvres that constitute the regularity of an army.

One insuperable obstacle to the provincial army's arriving at perfect discipline was the shortness of the time for which the men had been enlisted. It had been limited to six months, and no part of the troops were engaged longer than the 1st of Jan. 1776. To prevent the English General from taking advantage of this circumstance, Washington was obliged occasionally to call in the militia when the disbanded men left the camp, in order that the works should be properly defended.

Ticonderoga had been taken by Colonel Arnold on the 10th of May. This important fortress is situated on a promontory, formed at the junction of Lake George and Lake Champlain, and consequently it is the key of communication between New-York and Canada. Arnold, flushed with success, wrote a letter to Congress, in which he offered to reduce the whole province of Canada with 2000 men. From the impetuosity of his disposition, he advised the adoption of an offensive war, but as Congress did not wish to widen the breach between Great-Britain and the Colonies, and an accommodation was their wish, they deferred the invasion of Canada.

Sir Guy Carleton, the governor of that province, planned a scheme for the recovery of Ticonderoga and Crown Point, another fort taken by the Americans. He had been invested with full powers to embody the Canadians, and

march them against the enemy ; however they were very willing to engage in the contest, but he hoped on the arrival of reinforcements, to compel them to act. Meantime he had collected a numerous body of Indians ; his troops though few, were well disciplined, and the United Colonies had reason to dread a man of his intrepidity and abilities.

When Congress were informed of these exertions in Canada, they thought it expedient to make a vigorous attack upon that province, in order to prevent the invasion of their north-western frontier. In consequence of this determination, an army of 3000 men under the commands of Gen. Schuyler and Montgomery, were sent to effect the conquest of Canada.— They proceeded to Lake Champlain, and thence by water to St. John's, the first British post in Canada. The Americans landed and besieged the fortress, which was bravely defended by the garrison under Major Preston. Illness obliged General Schuyler to retire to Albany, and the sole command of the troops devolved on Montgomery, who prosecuted the siege with such vigour, that in a few days he became master of the place. After the reduction of St. John's, Montgomery advanced to Montreal with his victorious army. On his approach to that town, the few British forces which composed the garrison, repaired for safety on board the shipping, in hopes of es-

cáping down the river, but they were prevented by a body of continental troops under the command of Colonel Easton, who was stationed at the point of Sorel river.—General Prescott with several officers, and 120 privates surrendered themselves prisoners on terms of capitulation ; and the American General, after leaving a garrison in Montreal, advanced with a rapid march towards the capital of Canada.

While Montgomery was thus pursuing the career of victory, the province of Canada was invaded in another quarter by an enemy no less enterprising and intrepid than himself. A detachment of 1000 men was sent by Gen. Washington, from the American army at Cambridge. This expedition was conducted by Colonel Arnold, who led his troops by an unexplored route through the wilderness. The difficulties encountered by this detachment during 31 days, were almost insurmountable. They proceeded in boats by the river Kennebeck, and were obliged to work upwards against its impetuous current. After suffering various hardships, and losing above one third of his men, by sickness and desertion, Col. Arnold arrived at the inhabited part of Canada, after a march of six weeks.

The appearance of Colonel Arnold before Quebec threw the inhabitants into the greatest consternation ; but, as in his march it had been impossible to bring any cannon, he could

only seize the avenues that led to the city, in order to cut off supplies and provisions, and await the arrival of the troops under Montgomery.

On the 5th of December, 1775, Montgomery arrived in sight of Quebec. He summoned it in due form, but the garrison fired at his flag of truce, and refused to admit his message. As the depth of winter approached, he was convinced of the necessity of either raising the siege, or taking the city by escalade.

General Carleton made such exertions as evinced the most determined resistance, and his example animated the courage of the garrison. The town was remarkably strong both by nature and art, and the number of the besiegers was inconsiderable ; besides the vigilance of the Governor was such, that every part was guarded with the greatest circumspection.

Montgomery, on the other hand, possessed all those romantic ideas of military glory which prevailed in the days of chivalry ; and this love of enterprize was cherished by an intrepidity which made him overlook all perils ; he was conscious that his troops would follow with alacrity wherever he should lead, and he determined to take the city by storm, or perish in the attempt.

On the 31st of December, 1775, he advanced to the attack by break of day. In order to incite emulation among the Provincial troops,

there were two attacks, one by the New-England men, headed by Arnold, and the other by the New-York men, whom the General led in person.

The way through which Montgomery and his party had to pass was narrow, and as he knew the most desperate exertions of valour would be required, he had selected a number of his most resolute men for this enterprize. He advanced amid a heavy shower of snow, and, having seized the first barrier, he rushed forward at the head of his party, and hastened to close in upon the enemy. The second barrier, which led directly to the gates of the lower town, was defended by a strong body of the garrison, who were posted there with several pieces of cannon ready loaded—Montgomery advanced, with a rapid movement, and was received with a volley of musketry and grape-shot, that, in an instant, killed and wounded almost the whole of his party. He fell himself, with his principal officers. The troops were so disconcerted by the loss of their General, that they retreated. In the mean time, Colonel Arnold was engaged in a furious assault on the opposite side of the town. He attacked and carried a barrier defended with cannon, but this success was attended with a great loss of men, and he received a wound himself, which made it necessary to carry him off the field of battle. The officers on whom the

command devolved continued the assault, and took possession of another barrier ; but the besieged, who now perceived the inconsiderable number of the assailants, sallied from a gate that opened towards their rear, and attacked them in turn. The Provincials were now hemmed in from all possibility of a retreat, and exposed to a tremendous fire from the walls ; yet, in this dreadful situation, they maintained the contest three hours before they surrendered.

Though this expedition had failed in the great object, yet it effectually prevented any invasion from that quarter, a circumstance that had been apprehended by Congress.

The southern provinces now became involved in the contest, especially Virginia, where the disputes of the governor, Lord Dunmore, with the Assembly, after repeated aggravations on both sides, terminated in open hostilities. He had retired from Williamsburg to Norfolk, where he was joined by a considerable number of loyalists ; but, after several skirmishes, he was obliged to retire to the shipping that lay in the river adjacent to the town. As it was now in the possession of the Americans, they not only refused to supply the people on board with provisions, but annoyed them by a number of riflemen, who were placed in houses near the ships, and who inhumanly aimed at, and killed several persons on board.

Exasperated at their conduct, Lord Dunmore ordered a party to land under cover of a man of war, and set fire to the town. Thus Norfolk was reduced to ashes, and the loss was estimated at 300,000*l*.

Meantime, the Governors of the two Carolinas were expelled by the people, and obliged to take refuge on board the British men of war.

Thus at the conclusion of the year 1775, the whole of the British Colonies, except the town of Boston were united against the mother-country.

The British troops at Boston had endured a tedious blockade with their characteristic fortitude. All communication with the country was prevented, and the garrison suffered many inconveniences from the want of necessaries. They felt the severities of a winter campaign in a rigorous climate, especially those who were stationed at Bunker's-Hill, where they lay exposed to winds and snows almost intolerable to a British constitution.

The Provincials, in the mean time, were well supplied with necessaries in their encampment before Boston. Here Washington presided, and, by his prudent regulations, the troops had all the comforts of good tents, bedding, and fresh provisions.

An intense frost usually begins throughout New-England about the latter end of Decem-

ber, when the harbour of Boston, and all the rivers in the environs of that town, are generally frozen to a depth of ice sufficient to bear a great weight. Washington proposed to take possession not only of the town, but also to take or destroy all the shipping in the harbour, and by this decisive enterprize, put a conclusion to all the hopes of Great-Britain in this quarter. His troops were eager to distinguish themselves by this achievement, and, if requisite, a greater force could soon be collected to second their efforts. This winter, however, was unusually mild, and, by preventing the operations of the Provincials, both they and the garrison were obliged to remain inactive.

In the mean time, Mr. Penn, who had bro't over the last petition from Congress, was examined at the bar of the House of Lords. This gentleman had been Governor of Pennsylvania, he was personally acquainted with most of the members of Congress, and was qualified to give the most authentic information respecting the temper and inclinations of the Americans. It appeared from his testimonies, that the charge of aiming at Independence, which had been imputed to Congress, was unfounded. They had been fairly elected, were men of character and abilities, the Colonies had the highest confidence in their integrity, and were governed by their decisions.

From his account, it appeared that Pennsylvania, alone, was able to raise 60,000 men, 20,000 of whom had already enrolled themselves to serve without pay, and were armed and embodied before his departure from the continent. Beside, they had, in imitation of the Colony of Massachusetts, instituted a corps of minute-men, amounting to 5000.

After a tedious debate in both Houses of Parliament, the petition of Congress was rejected, all attempts to reconciliation were suspended, the standard of defiance seemed now to be raised, and both parties appeared determined to make the last appeal to arms.

When the news of this rejection of the American petition reached the camp before Boston, the troops expressed the greatest indignation. As Georgia had joined the confederacy, the Americans now changed their colours from a plain red ground, to 13 stripes, alternately red and white, to denote the number of the United Colonies.

Washington exerted his skill and activity, in order to compel the British either to surrender or evacuate Boston before any succours could arrive from England. On the 2d of March, 1776, he opened a battery on the west side of the town, and bombarded it.—This attack was supported by a tremendous cannonade; and, on the 5th, another battery was opened on the eastern shore. The garrison sus-

tained this dreadful bombardment with the greatest fortitude; it lasted 14 days without intermission, when General Howe, finding the place no longer tenable, resolved to embark for Halifax.

The evacuation of Boston was not interrupted by the Provincials, lest the British troops should set it on fire.

When the Americans took possession of Boston, they found a multitude of valuable articles which were unavoidably left behind by the British army. The principal of these were artillery and ammunition; but the most valuable booty was a large quantity of woollens and linnens, of which the Provincials stood in the most pressing need.

Washington now directed his attention to the fortifications of Boston. He employed a number of foreign engineers to superintend the construction of new works, and so eager were the people in the prosecution of this business, that every effective man in the town, without distinction, devoted two days of the week to its completion.

As Washington was uncertain of the destination of the British fleet and army which had left Boston, and as New-York lay exposed to any sudden attack, he detached several of his best regiments, under General Lee, for the defence of that city.

Meanwhile, a small fleet under the command of Sir Peter Parker, and a body of troops,

under Generals Cornwallis, Clinton, and Vaughan, sailed for Charleston, the capital of South-Carolina. After a violent, but unsuccessful attack in which the fleet received considerable damage the expedition was abandoned.

On the 4th of July, 1776, the Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, formally renounced all connection with Great Britain, and declared themselves independent. They also published a manifesto, stating a list of grievances, which, notwithstanding their repeated petitions, remained unredressed. For these reasons they determined on a final separation from the Mother-country, and to hold the people of Great Britain as the rest of mankind, "enemies in war, in peace friends." This celebrated declaration of Independence concluded as follows :

"We, the Representatives of the United States of America, in general Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of the Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that the United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, Free, and Independent States, and that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the

State of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that, as Free and Independent States, they have full power to make war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

This formal renunciation of allegiance to Great Britain, was followed by the greatest preparations for war throughout the United States.

Washington took every precaution for defensive operations, by erecting forts, and stationing troops at the most vulnerable points. The nature of the country was peculiarly favorable to defence. New-England, especially, presented many natural barriers, consisting of hills and mountains, intersected by rivers, and interspersed with woods and precipices—several defiles, skirted by impenetrable forests—while majestic rivers, flowing with impetuous currents, seemed to preclude the invader.

General Howe resolved to quit Halifax, and proceed to New-York, where he intended to wait for the reinforcements from England. He sailed about the middle of June, and at the end of the month arrived at Sandy-Hook, a point of land which stands at the entrance of

a large body of water, formed by the confluence of several rivers, and which is surrounded by New-York, Staten, and Long-Island.

About the middle of July, Lord Howe arrived with a fleet and army from England. He sent a circular letter to the Governors who had been displaced by their respective provinces, in which he explained, that he was empowered, in conjunction with his brother, to grant general or particular pardons to all those who were willing to return to their allegiance to the King of Great Britain. Congress ordered this letter to be published in all the news-papers, in order that the people of America might know the terms on which they were to act, viz. either unconditional submission, or a bold and manly resistance to despotic power; and, that those who relied on the justice and moderation of the British Ministry, might be fully convinced, that they must trust to their own valour for the preservation of their liberties.

Lord Howe next sent a letter to the American Commander in Chief, but, as it was directed to "George Washington, Esq." The General refused to receive it, as not directed to him agreeably to his station. His conduct, on this occasion, received the unanimous approbation of Congress.

To obviate this difficulty, Adjutant-General Paterson was sent by General Howe with a

letter directed to "George Washington, &c. &c. &c." He was politely received, and immediately admitted to the presence of the American General. The Adjutant expressed much concern on account of the difficulties that had arisen from the superscription of the former letter, and hoped that the *et ceteras* would remove all obstructions to an intercourse between the Commissioners and General Washington. To this he replied, "that a letter written to a person invested with a public character should specify it, otherwise it could not be distinguished from a letter on private business: true it was, the *et ceteras* implied every thing, but it was no less true, that they implied any thing."

The most interesting part of the conversation was that respecting the power of the Commissioners, whom the Adjutant said, were ready to exert themselves to the utmost to effect a reconciliation. The General replied, that it did not appear that these powers consisted in any more than granting pardons; but as America had committed no offence, she asked no forgiveness, and was only defending her unquestionable rights.

From this conference, it was evident, that nothing but a decided superiority in the field could induce the Americans to relax the resolutions which they had taken with so much deliberation and solemnity.

The firmness of Congress had inspired the Provincials with enthusiasm. That resolute body had declared America independent in the very face of the British fleet and army, while the first was casting anchor in sight of New-York, and the reinforcements from England were making the second landing on Staten-Island.

An attack upon Long-Island being determined on by the British commanders, the fleet covered the descent of the army, which effected a landing without any opposition, on the 22d of August, 1776. General Putnam, with a large body of troops, lay encamped and strongly fortified, on a northern peninsula on the opposite shore with a range of hills between the armies, the principal pass of which was at a village called Flat-Bush.

Large detachments of the American army occupied the hills and passes. The right of the British army was commanded by General Clinton, Lord Percy, and Lord Cornwallis ; the centre, composed of Hessians, under General Heister, was posted at Flat-Bush ; and the left under General Grant, was stationed near the sea shore.

Early in the morning of the 27th, the engagement was begun by the Hessians, and a heavy fire of cannon and musketry was continued on both sides for several hours. One of the passes which lay at a distance, had been

neglected by the Americans, which gave an opportunity to the right division of the British army to pass the hills, and attack them in the rear.

The Americans, when apprized of their danger, retreated towards their camp, but they were intercepted, and driven back into the woods.—Here they were met by the Hessians, and thus exposed to the fire of two parties. No way of escape now remained, but by forcing their way thro' the ranks of the enemy, and thus regaining their camp. This numbers of them effected, but by far the greater part were either killed or taken prisoners.

Washington had crossed over from New-York in the height of the engagement, but he came too late to retrieve the fortune of the day. He had the mortification to see some of his best troops killed or taken, without being able to afford them any assistance, but he used his utmost exertions to save those that remained by a well conducted retreat.

The victory was complete : the Americans lost upwards of 3000 men, including 2000 killed, and 1000 taken prisoners, among whom were three generals—On the side of the British the loss in killed and wounded was only about 500. Among the provincials that fell, a regiment from Maryland was particularly regretted. It consisted wholly of young men of the best families in that province. They

behaved with the most admirable heroism : they were every one killed or wounded, and thus perished in the bloom of youth.

After this defeat, Washington did not think it expedient to risk another action against a numerous army of veterans, well provided with artillery, and elated with their recent victory. New-York required to be strengthened, and the emergency did not admit of a moment's delay ; for should the British fleet be able to station itself between the camp and that city, all would be inevitably lost.

In this extremity, Washington exerted all his characteristic vigilance and circumspection. In the night of the 29th August, favoured by darkness, and in the most profound silence, he conveyed his troops on board the boats and landed them on the opposite shore. He also carried off as much of their baggage, military stores and artillery, as the time would permit. This retreat was conducted with so much secrecy, that with the dawn, the British troops were surprised to see the rear guard of the American army in the boats and beyond the reach of danger.

When Washington returned with the army to New-York, he ordered batteries to be erected on every spot whence they could annoy the ships of war, which were now stationed in that part of the river which faces the city.

The men of war were continually engaged with those batteries, some of which they silen-

ced, and enabled the British troops to proceed up the river, to a bay about three miles distant. Here the troops landed under the cannon of the fleet, and marched directly towards the city, on which Washington retreated with his men to the north of York-Island. On this occasion, he lost a great part of his artillery and military stores, yet he engaged the British troops wherever he could make an advantageous stand.

Washington had been particularly careful to fortify the pass called King's Bridge, and had chosen this position for his army with the greatest judgment. He could advance or retire at pleasure, without any danger of being cut off in case of a defeat. Though he was determined not to risk a general engagement, yet in order to inure his troops to actual service, and at the same time annoy the enemy, he employed them in continual skirmishes, in consequence of which they gradually became expert soldiers.

It was now determined to force the Americans to a greater distance, lest others of their emissaries should engage in an attempt to destroy the city.—Accordingly, General Howe left a sufficient garrison at New-York, and embarked his army in flat bottomed boats, by which they were conveyed thro' the dangerous passage called Hell-Gate and landed near the town of West Chester, on the continent.—

After leaving fresh reinforcements, the Royal army made such movements as threatened to distress the Americans, by cutting off their supplies of provisions from Connecticut, and thus force them to an engagement.

Washington held a council of war with his officers, in which it was resolved to quit their present position and extend the army in a long but a well secured line. This the general accomplished, by keeping the Brunx, a river of considerable depth, in front, between the two armies, with the North river on his rear.

On the 28th of October, at break of day, the British troops divided into two columns, advanced towards the White Plains, an extent of high ground full of craggy hills and defiles.

The Americans maintained their ground in front till noon, when they were attacked with such vigour by the British army, that they were compelled to retire to their intrenchments.

During the night, Washington, ever intent on the defence and preservation of his army, ordered several additional works to be thrown up in front of the lines, in consequence of which the English general thought it imprudent to attack him till the arrival of reinforcements.

On mature deliberation, however, Washington thought it adviseable to retreat: his camp was broken up on the 1st of November, and

retired with his army, into a mountainous country, called the Township of New-castle. By these judicious movements, he avoided a general action. His system was, to harass the enemy, and habituate his men to danger, so that, when the emergency required it, they might be able to act with energy.

When General Howe found that all his attempts to bring the enemy to an action were ineffectual, he turned his attention to the reduction of Forts Washington and Lee. A division of his army advanced to King's Bridge, from which the Americans withdrew into Fort Washington, which was immediately invested. This fort was situated on the western side of New-York island, in the vicinity of the city, and nearly opposite to Fort Lee, which had been lately erected on the other side of the water, in the province of Jersey. Its chief strength was in its situation, it was defended by 3000 men, well supplied with artillery. On the 16th of November, this fort was attacked by the British army, in four divisions, and, after a resistance of some hours, the garrison was overpowered, and obliged to surrender themselves prisoners of war.

In order to obtain the full command of the North River, it was also necessary to reduce Fort Lee. For this purpose, Lord Cornwallis crossed the river, landed on the Jersey shore, and marched with all possible expedition to

surprise the garrison. Being apprized of his approach they evacuated the fort, leaving all their artillery and warlike stores to the enemy. Thus both the Jerseys were laid open to the incursions of the British troops. They penetrated so far, that their winter-quarters extended from New-Brunswick to the river Delaware: and so great was the consternation of the Americans, that, had the British army found a sufficient number of boats to ferry them over the Delaware, it is highly probable that Philadelphia would have fallen into their hands.

Meanwhile, Sir Henry Clinton undertook an expedition to Rhode-Island, and became master of that province, without the loss of a man. The affairs of the Americans also wore an inauspicious aspect on their northern frontiers, where General Arnold was defeated by General Carleton, and compelled to retire from Crown-Point to Ticonderoga.

The American army was now almost disbanded. / As the time for which the soldiers had enlisted was only a twelve month, at the expiration of that period, having fulfilled their agreement, they returned home, in consequence of which, General Washington found his army decreased from 30,000 to 3000 men. To assist the Commander in Chief as much as possible, General Lee had collected a body of forces in the North, but, on his way southward, having imprudently lodged at some distance

from the troops, he was made prisoner by a party of British light dragoons, who brought him to New-York.

The capture of General Lee was a heavy loss to the Americans. His professional knowledge was great both in the theory and practice of tactics; he was full of activity, fertile in expedients, and of a most intrepid and enterprising disposition.

Congress now exerted themselves to retrieve their losses, and to recruit their army. They were furnished with a just plea for altering their mode of enlisting men: they ordered a new army to be levied, of which the soldier should be bound to serve 3 years, or during the continuance of the war. The most liberal encouragement was to be given to recruits.—Twenty dollars was allowed to every soldier, as bounty, besides an allotment of lands at the end of the war, to all that served, and to the families of those who should lose their lives in the service of their country.

All the provinces exerted themselves in this season of universal danger, and hastened to send whatever reinforcements could be raised to their army that lay in the vicinity of Philadelphia.

Exclusive of the dread of being exposed to a victorious enemy, the Americans were particularly apprehensive of the Hessians, and other Germans, who had, on every occasion,

committed the most barbarous outrages. Those ferocious mercenaries appropriated every thing they could lay their hands upon, and plundered a people who not only detested but despised them for their meanness and rapacity.

As the British troops lay cantoned on the banks of the Delaware, and only waited till the frost would enable them to cross it, the Americans thought it advisable to remove their Congress to Baltimore, in Maryland. Meanwhile, General Washington continued to watch over the safety of his country; his mind was continually occupied with new plans for the protection of his beloved America; and he beheld, with filial solicitude, the dangers that threatened her liberties.

The British army now occupied a chain of towns and villages throughout the heart of the Jerseys, and had extended their quarters to the banks of the Delaware. General Washington resolved to make some attempts on those divisions of the enemy that lay nearest Philadelphia, and, if possible, relieve it from the danger to which it was exposed.

A corps of Hessians lay at Trenton, another at Bordenton, some miles lower down, and a third at Burlington. These towns were on the opposite bank of Delaware, and the last within 20 miles of Philadelphia. The Hessians, from a confidence in their military superiority, became inattentive to the motions of the Ameri-

cans, and were wholly engaged with those licentious outrages that had rendered them odious to all the inhabitants.

Washington prepared to surprize the enemy in their quarters. Accordingly, he formed his army into three divisions—the first was to cross the Delaware at Trenton ferry—the second below Bordenton—and the third he commanded in person, accompanied by Generals Sullivan and Grene. This division consisted of 3000 of the best men in the American service, with a train of 20 field pieces. On the 25th of December, Washington marched at the head of his division, to a ferry some miles above Trenton, with an intention to pass it at midnight, which would enable him to arrive at Trenton with the dawn.

It is impossible to contemplate the progress of this little army of patriots without emotion. As they march in solemn silence, without one friendly ray to guide their footsteps, what must be their sensations? On the success of their enterprize depends the freedom and happiness of innumerable millions yet unborn—on its failure awaits every evil that can appal the heart. The virtuous matron—the innocent child—the chaste virgin, all depend for protection on this heroic band. As they proceed, their bosoms throb with anxiety, while all the ardour of the soldier arises to overcome apprehension; neither the rigour of a winter's

night, nor the certainty of perils they must face can deter them from their purpose. Their leader, who, like an eagle driven from her nest, still hovers about its young, what are his thoughts !—his noble heart forbodes success, he anticipates victory ; and, while he feels the glow of heroism, his fortitude is prepared to brave even defeat itself.

In consequence of the delay occasioned by the difficulty in breaking the ice, it was four o'clock in the morning before Washington could land his troops, with their artillery on the Jersey shore. He then formed his men into two grand divisions ; one of which he ordered to proceed by the lower road, and he led the other by the upper road to Trenton. Though it was now eight o'clock, the enemy did not discover the approach of the Americans till they were attacked by Washington's division, and in three minutes afterwards the lower part of the town was assailed by the other detachment. Colonel Ralle, who commanded the Hessians, made every effort that could be expected from a brave veteran ; but he was mortally wounded, his troops were completely surrounded, and to the number of 1000 men laid down their arms.

This victory may be considered as one of the most fortunate events that befel the Americans during the war. Religious individuals attributed this success to the interposition of

Divine Providence, that had suffered America to be reduced to the extreme of distress, in order to teach them not to place their reliance on their own strength but to look to an Omnipotent Power for protection.

Washington repassed the Delaware, and his return to Philadelphia with such a considerable number of prisoners, was both pleasing and unexpected. To surprize a body of veterans, and defeat them in their own quarters, was an achievement that excited the liveliest emotions of admiration in the breasts of the Americans. They were now emulous to second the efforts of a General who had so nobly effected their defence; men of energy and influence were dispatched in all directions to rouse the militia, and about 1500 of the American troops, whose engagement was nearly expired, agreed to serve six weeks longer for a gratuity of ten dollars to each.

When the Hessian prisoners were secured, Washington again crossed the Delaware, and took possession of Trenton. Several detachments of the British assembled at Princeton, where they were joined by the army from Brunswick, commanded by Lord Cornwallis. This general now marched to Trenton, and attacked the Americans on the 2d of January, 1777, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The vanguard of the Americans was compelled to retreat, but the pursuing enemy was checked by

some field pieces which were posted on the opposite bank of Sanpink Creek. Thus two armies, on which the success or failure of the American Revolution depended, were crowded into the village of Trenton, and only separated by a creek in many places fordable. The British army discontinued their operations, and lay on their arms in readiness to make another attack next morning—Meanwhile Washington ordered the baggage to be silently removed, and having left fires and patrols in his camp to deceive the enemy, he led his army during the obscurity of the night, and by a circuitous route reached Princeton.

Washington had held a council of war with his officers, in which this movement had been determined on, as the most likely way to preserve the city of Philadelphia from being captured by the British army. He reached Princeton early in the morning, and would have surrounded three regiments of British Infantry that were stationed there, had not a detachment that was marching to Trenton descried his troops, and dispatched couriers to alarm their fellow soldiers.

On their approach to Princeton, the centre of the Americans was charged by a party of the British troops, and compelled to retreat. In this emergency, Washington rode forward; he placed himself between his flying troops and the enemy. The Americans encouraged

by his exhortations and example, rallied and attacked the British in turn ; and tho' Washington was for some moments between two fires, he providentially escaped without a wound. During this contest, the British troops displayed the most invincible valour. One of the three regiments commanded by Colonel Mawhood, undismayed by the superiority of the Americans in point of numbers charged them with their bayonets, forced their way through their ranks, and marched forward to Maidenhead ; the other two regiments retired in excellent order, and retreated to Brunswick

The British General was so much disconcerted at these unexpected manœuvres of Washington, that he evacuated Trenton, and retired with his whole force to Brunswick !

Thus, in the space of a month, all that part of the Jerseys which lies between Brunswick and Delaware, was over-run by the British troops and recovered by the Americans. Washington stationed troops in all the important places which he had regained, and the campaign of 1776 closed with few advantages to the British army, except the acquisition of New-York.

During these hostile operations, both armies had suffered great hardships. Many of the American soldiers were destitute of shoes, and their naked feet were often wounded by the inequalities of the frozen ground, insomuch

that their footsteps were marked with blood. Their clothing was too slight for the rigorous season ; there was scarcely a tent in the whole army, yet so enthusiastically were they attached to their general that they underwent those hardships without repining. Washington merited this generous confidence ; his benignity to his troops, the cheerfulness with which he participated their inconveniences and dangers, and the heroism which he displayed in the heat of action, commanded their veneration. In the actions at Trenton and Princeton, he united the stratagem of Hannibal with the intrepidity of Cæsar ; while his success animated the hopes, and roused the energies of the friends of American Independence.

Tho' vested with extraordinary powers to raise troops, he found it very difficult to keep those he had together. A few were influenced, by the persuasions of their officers, to remain and defend the common cause, but the major part of the army were induced to serve by their attachment to their general. Indeed, the high estimation in which he was held by his countrymen, was of the greatest efficacy on many occasions, and now it absolutely prevented the troops from disbanding themselves.

The recruits supplied by the several provinces fell short of the intended number ; yet while the British troops were detained at N. York, Washington received numerous rein-

forcements. He now moved from his winter encampment at Morrristown, to the high lands about Middle-Brook in the vicinity of Brunswick. In this strong position he threw up works along the front of his lines, but his principal advantage was the difficulty to approach his camp, the ground being so judiciously occupied as to expose an enemy to every kind of danger in an attack. On the one side he covered the Jerseys, and on the other he observed the motions of the British army at Brunswick of which he commanded a full prospect.

Many stratagems were employed by the British General to draw Washington from his strong situation, but without effect, so that it was found necessary to make an attempt on Philadelphia by sea.

On the 23d of July, the British fleet sailed from Sandy Hook, with 36 battalions of British and Hessian infantry, a regiment of light dragoons, and a corps of American Loyalists on board. After a tedious navigation, they went up the river Elk as far as was practicable. Here the army landed, without opposition, on the 25th of August. Part of the troops were left to guard the stores, while General Howe proceeded, with the main body to the head of the Elk.

When Washington received information that the British fleet had sailed up the Chesa-

peake, he marched with all possible expedition to the defence of Philadelphia. His army, amounting to 12,000 men, passed through that city to meet the British forces, which consisted of 15,000. He encamped on the Brandywine Creek, about midway from the Elk to Philadelphia, and sent detachments to harass the British army on their march.

On the approach of the enemy, Washington retired to the side of the Creek next Philadelphia, with a determination to dispute the passage. On the 11th of September, the royal army advanced to the attack at day-break, and after a well contested battle, which lasted till night the Americans were defeated with the loss of 1000 killed and wounded, besides 500 taken prisoners. On the side of the conquerors, the loss did not exceed 500. The victory was so complete, that darkness alone prevented the pursuit and consequent destruction or capture of the whole provincial army. The greatest valour had been displayed by the officers and soldiers on both sides. Among the American troops who distinguished themselves most, were the Virginians, who, from their affection for Washington, had on all occasions evinced the greatest intrepidity and enthusiasm.

Immediately after the battle the Americans retired to Chester, whence Washington wrote an account of his defeat to the president of

Congress. His letter is dated 12 o'clock at night, and is perhaps the most faithful picture ever given, of the reflections of a great mind amid disaster and difficulty. His troops tho' defeated were not dispirited, and they considered their misfortune rather as the consequence of superior skill on the side of their enemies, than as proceeding from any defect of valour on theirs.

Congress, which had returned from Baltimore to Philadelphia, were now obliged to retire a second time. They went first to Lancaster and afterwards to York-Town.

General Howe, at the head of the vanguard of his army entered Philadelphia in triumph on the 26th of September, and the main body of the British army encamped in the vicinity of the city. The American army was posted at Skippach Creek sixteen miles distant. When Washington received the intelligence that the British army was divided, he resolved to surprize the camp of the principal division at German Town—Accordingly, on the 3d of October, in the evening, he marched in great silence, and about 3 o'clock in the morning he reached the British camp, and immediately made the requisite dispositions for an attack. The patrols discovered his approach, and the troops were called to arms.

The Americans assailed the camp with the greatest intrepidity, but they were received

with such bravery, that, after a very hot action, they were repulsed, and compelled to retreat with considerable loss.

When the news that Philadelphia was in possession of the royal army reached the northern colonies, they sent a reinforcement of 4000 of their best men to Washington. On their arrival, he advanced within 14 miles of the city, and fixed himself in a strong encampment at White Marsh. The British general marched out of Philadelphia in the beginning of December, to afford Washington an opportunity of coming to a general engagement, but he was determined to act merely on the defensive. Finding that he could not provoke the enemy to engage, General Howe returned to the city on the 8th of December, and his army went into winter quarters.

Washington now removed his camp to Valley Forge on the banks of the Schuylkill, about 15 miles from Philadelphia. In this strong position he could observe every motion of the British army. Huts were erected, in order to protect his army from the rigour of winter. The willingness with which the troops consented to undergo the various hardships of so uncomfortable a situation, was a proof of the warmth of their attachment to their General, and their determination to defend their country.

While the British army were thus successful in the middle colonies, more important and

decisive events happened in the northern provinces. General Burgoyne was sent at the head of a veteran army, to make a vigorous campaign upon the lakes and in the adjoining provinces. He first took possession of Ticonderoga, then crossed Lake George, and encamped on the banks of the Hudson near Saratoga. Here his progress was checked by the Americans under General Gates : and after two severe actions, he was forced to surrender on the 17th of October, 1777. This event diffused an universal joy throughout the United States. The European nations, and France in particular, who from prejudice or envy, had so long been desirous of the downfall of British grandeur, received this news with open exultation. Indeed, several individuals in France had exerted themselves in favour of the Americans. A number of brave and experienced officers of the Irish brigade volunteered in the cause of the British Colonies, against their parent State ; and even some of the young nobility of France were emulous to distinguish themselves on this occasion. The most conspicuous of these, were the Marquis de la Fayette ; Roche du Fermoy, who served in the army that acted against General Burgoyne : De Coudray, a French officer of rank ; and Baron St. Ovary.

By the assistance of these auxiliaries, the Americans daily improved in discipline, and

the successful close of the campaign on the frontiers, cheered them with the most pleasing expectations respecting the issue of the war.

On the 6th of February, 1778, a treaty of alliance between France and America was signed by the contracting parties. Washington appointed a day for the whole army to celebrate this event, and it was observed with the greatest military pomp.

In May, General Howe took his departure for England, and the chief command of the British army devolved on Sir Henry Clinton.

The English commissioners, appointed by the British Ministry to attempt a reconciliation with the Colonies, arrived at New-York in the beginning of June, but before they could receive an answer from Congress, General Clinton evacuated Philadelphia, after the British army had kept possession of it for nine months. This event took place on the 18th of June, and it was considered by the Americans as the harbinger of their Independence. They asserted, that the strength of Britain was broken on the American continent, and that the army retreated towards the sea, to be in readiness to embark, if the exigencies of Britain required its assistance.

The British army marched out of Philadelphia at 3 o'clock in the morning, and crossed the Delaware before noon, with all its baggage.

Washington had been apprised of this movement, and dispatched expresses into the Jerseys to collect troops. He passed the Delaware with the main body of his army, and was hourly joined by reinforcements of regular troops and militia.

General Clinton retreated across the country towards Sandy Hook, whence a passage to New-York might be easily effected. In the mean time, Washington pursued the British army, he sent the Marquis de la Fayette with a detachment of chosen troops to harass the rear of the enemy ; General Lee, who had been lately exchanged, followed with a division to support him, and Washington himself moved with the main body to sustain the whole.

On the 27th of June, the British army encamped in a strong position at Monmouth, near Freehold ; and on the morning of the 28th the van division of the Americans, under General Lee, commenced the attack by a severe cannonade ; but Sir Henry Clinton, had made such judicious arrangements of his troops, that the enemy were unable to make any impression on his rear.

The British grenadiers and light infantry engaged the Americans with such vigour, that their first line, commanded by General Lee, was completely broken ; their second line was also defeated ; they both rallied however, and

posted themselves with a morass in their front. They were again charged by the British troops, and were with difficulty preserved from a total defeat by the junction of their main body under Washington.

In this action the bravery and discipline of the British troops were conspicuous. They had forced an enemy superior in number from two strong positions, and had endured excessive fatigue both from the intense heat of the day and unremitting toil. The loss of the royal army was about 500 men, and that of the Americans was considerable.

General Lee, who commanded the van division of the American army in the action at Monmouth, was, in consequence of his misconduct, put under arrest, tried by a Court-martial, and sentenced to a temporary suspension from his command.

Washington, after the retreat of the British army, marched to White Plains near King's Bridge, where he encamped. He remained in this position till the latter end of autumn, when he retired to Middle-Brook, in Jersey. Here his army erected huts, similar to those they had made at Valley-Forge, and went into winter-quarters.

In May, 1779, General Clinton sent a division of the British army to take Stony-Point, a strong fort on the western side of the North-River. This expedition was successful, as

the distance at which Washington lay with his army prevented him from giving any assistance to the garrison. The British General fortified Stoney-Point in the strongest manner, and encamped at Phillipsburg, half way between that fortress and New-York, to be in readiness to compel Washington to an engagement, if he should leave his station in Jersey.

In order to counteract these operations, Washington advanced towards the British army. He took a strong position at West-Point, on the banks of the North-River, and formed a design to recover Stoney-Point by surprise. He sent General Wayne, one of the most intrepid officers in his army, to conduct this enterprize. Wayne, at the head of a detachment of chosen men, arrived in the evening of the 15th of July within sight of Stoney-Point. He formed his men into two columns with orders to use the bayonet only. The right column was commanded by himself in person, the left by major Stewart, a bold and active officer. At midnight, the two columns marched to the attack, from the opposite sides of the works, which were surrounded with a morass and two rows of abattis, well provided with artillery. The Americans were opposed by a tremendous fire of musketry and grape shot, but they pressed forward with the bayonet, and both columns met in the centre of the works,

where the garrison, amounting to 500 men, were obliged to surrender prisoners of war.

When the British General received the intelligence of the surprise of Stoney-Point, he marched with his army to retake it, and as Washington did not consider the possession of that fortress of sufficient importance to risk a general action, he demolished the works, and carried off the artillery.

Towards the end of the year 1779, General Clinton sailed from New-York, with a considerable body of troops to attack Charleston in South-Carolina, where General Lincoln commanded. After a close siege of 6 weeks the town was surrendered to the British General, and the whole American garrison made prisoners. In August 1780, Lord Cornwallis defeated the Americans under General Gates, at Camden in South-Carolina, and he afterwards marched through the Southern States without opposition.

During the summer of 1780, the British troops made frequent incursions from New-York into the Jerseys, and an unsuccessful attempt was made by General Knyphausen with 7000 men to surprise the advanced posts of Washington's army. So great were the necessities of the American army, that Washington was obliged to call on the magistrates of the adjacent counties for specified quantities of provisions; nay, he was sometimes compel-

led to send detachments of his troops to take necessaries at the point of the bayonet from the citizens. This scarcity was principally owing to the depreciation of the paper currency, which discouraged the farmers from selling their provisions to the army. The situation of Washington was peculiarly embarrassing—the army looked to him for necessaries, and the people for the protection of their property. His prudence surmounted these difficulties, and Congress sent a Committee of their own body to his camp, to concert measures for the payment and supply of the troops. As the attempt of the British army against Washington had made no impression of any consequence, the Americans began to recover from the alarm which the loss of Charleston had excited. Warm exhortations were made to the people by Congress, in which they were called upon by every motive that could animate them to act with spirit and promptitude against Great-Britain.

In the mean time, Sir Henry Clinton returned with his victorious army from Charleston; and Gen. Arnold who had been entrusted with the command of a very considerable division of the American army at West Point, agreed to deliver up that important post to the British General. As Washington had set out for Hartford to hold a conference with Count de Rochambeau, the negociation between Sir

Henry Clinton and Arnold was carried on with greater facility during his absence. The agent employed by the British General was Major Andre, a young officer of uncommon merit. To favour the necessary communications, the Vulture sloop of war had been previously stationed in the North River, and a boat was sent at night from the shore to fetch Major Andre—When he had received such instructions as related to his business, he set out on his return, but was intercepted and all his papers seized. Arnold escaped on board the Vulture, but Major Andre was brought before a board of General Officers, by whom he was considered as a spy, and sentenced to death. The officers who signed the condemnation of Andre, and even Washington himself, testified the sincerest grief at the necessity they declared themselves under of complying with the rigorous laws established in such cases.

At the close of the year 1780, the American army felt the rigour of the season with peculiar circumstances of aggravation by want of pay, clothing, &c. The troops had been enlisted for 3 years, which were now expired, and incensed at so long a continuance of hardships, an insurrection broke out in the Pennsylvania line, which was followed by that of New-Jersey. The complaints of these soldiers being well founded, were redressed, and a general amnesty closed the business. That

part of the American army which was under the command of Washington did not escape the contagion of revolt. He prudently remained in his quarters, where his presence, and the respect and affection for his person, though it did not prevent murmurs, kept his men within bounds, and prevented a mutiny.

The campaign of 1781, was opened with great vigour by the British army in Carolina. After several skirmishes with various success, the two armies under Lord Cornwallis and General Greene, met at Guilford, on the 15th of March 1781, and after a well contested action the British remained masters of the field. Lord Cornwallis afterwards marched into Virginia, where notwithstanding the advantages he gained over the Americans, his situation became very critical. Sir Henry Clinton was prevented from sending him reinforcements, as he was apprehensive that Washington intended to attack New-York. The American Commander in chief employed great finesse to deceive the British general, and by a variety of judicious manœuvres, kept him in continual alarm.—In the mean time, Lord Cornwallis took possession of York-Town, in Virginia, and he was followed by the Marquis de la Fayette, who had been dispatched by Washington with 2000 light infantry to watch the motions of the British army.

On the 30th of August, Count de Grasse anchored in Chesapeake Bay, with 24 ships of

the line. He landed troops to co-operate with Washington, who had moved with the main body of his army to the southward, and when he heard of the arrival of the French fleet in the Chesapeake, he proceeded by forced marches to the head of the Elk, which he crossed and proceeded to York-Town.

Washington now invested York-Town, with an army of 15,000 Americans, and 9000 French. He had selected his best troops for this important occasion, and the French were chosen out of the bravest corps in France.

The French and American batteries mounted with 50 pieces of cannon, were opened against York-Town on the night of the 6th of October, and an incessant fire was kept up till the 14th, when two detachments of the besiegers attacked and stormed two redoubts in front of the British works. The besieged were now so reduced by sickness, and the accidents of war that they amounted only to 5000 effective men. Meanwhile, Sir Henry Clinton selected 7000 of his best troops, which he embarked at New-York, on board the British fleet, with a determination to succour the army under Lord Cornwallis; but the garrison at York-Town having persevered to the utmost extremity, and no prospect of relief appearing, a negotiation was opened with Washington, and the troops and seamen were obliged to surrender themselves prisoners of war. Thus ter-

minated the decisive campaign of 1781, which realized American Independence.

Soon after the capture of Lord Cornwallis, the British armament appeared off the Chesapeake, in the latter end of October, but to their mortification, they were apprised that the army under Lord Cornwallis had surrendered.

Washington felt all the honest exultation of a patriot at this event. The orders published in his camp, on the 20th of October, were strongly expressive of his satisfaction. He congratulated the officers and soldiers of the combined armies on their success, and issued a general pardon to all persons in the Continental army who were under arrest, "that every heart might partake of the general joy." Nor did he omit what he knew would be peculiarly acceptable to the religious turn of many of his countrymen. His orders concluded with a particular injunction, "That a thanksgiving service should be performed," at which it was solemnly recommended to the troops to assist with that seriousness and sensibility of heart which the surprising interposition of Providence in their favour so justly claimed.

Washington was solicitous that the prisoners of war should be well treated. By his orders, they were distributed in the provinces of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, and their allowance was the same as that of the American army.

Congress voted an address of thanks to Washington, Count Rochambeau, Count de Grasse, and all the officers and soldiers of the combined armies, for the services they had performed. They also resolved, "That, in remembrance of the surrender of the British army, a marble column should be erected at York Town, Virginia, adorned with emblems of the alliance between France and the United States of America, and inscribed with a succinct account of the memorable event it was intended to commemorate."

Washington now returned with the principal part of his army to the vicinity of New-York, where, as he was unable to reduce that city, he went into winter quarters. The only appearances of an existing war were some skirmishes and predatory excursions.

On the 5th of May, 1782, Sir Guy Carleton arrived at New-York, being appointed to command the British army in America. Immediately on his arrival, he acquainted Washington and Congress, that negociations for a peace had commenced at Paris. Meanwhile, the British troops evacuated all their posts in South Carolina and Georgia, and retired to the main army at New-York.

Preliminary articles of peace were signed at Paris on the 30th of November, 1782, by Mr. Fitzherbert and Mr. Oswald, on the part of Great Britain, and, by Dr. Franklin, Mr.

Adams, Mr. Jay, and Mr. Lawrens, on the part of the United States. By this treaty his Majesty acknowledged the Thirteen United Colonies to be "free, sovereign and independent States."

As military operations were now entirely suspended; it was no longer necessary to keep the American army embodied. The States, however, were unable to pay them the arrears due for their inestimable services, and those men who had spent the prime of their days in defence of their country, were now to be dismissed without a reward.

An attempt was made by anonymous papers to incite the officers and soldiers to revolt. Washington, who was then in the camp, saw the danger, and exerted his influence to prevent it. At a meeting of the general and field officers, with one officer from each company, the commander in Chief addressed them in a pathetic speech, in which he conjured them, "as they valued their honour, as they respected the rights of humanity, and as they regarded the military and national character of America, to express their utmost detestation of the man who was attempting to open the flood-gates of civil discord, and deluge their rising empire with blood." Washington then retired. The officers, softened by the eloquence of their beloved commander, entered into a resolution, by which they declared, "that no

circumstance of distress or danger should induce a conduct that might tend to sully the reputation and glory they had acquired ; that the army continued to have an unshaken confidence in the justice of Congress and their Country, and that they viewed with abhorrence, and rejected with disdain, the infamous propositions in the late anonymous address to the officers of the army."

The fortitude and patriotism of Washington were in no instance of more essential service to America, than on this momentous occasion. Instead of making the discontent of the army instrumental to his own ambition, and usurping the government, this magnanimous patriot soothed the passions of his soldiers, and preserved inviolate the liberties of his country.

Towards the close of the year 1783, Congress issued a proclamation, in which the armies of the United States were applauded for their "long, eminent and faithful services." Congress then declared it to be their pleasure, "that such part of their Federal armies as stood engaged to serve during the war, should, from and after the 3d day of November next, be absolutely discharged from the said service."

Washington's "Farewell orders to the armies of the United States," dated Rocky-Hill, near Princeton, 2d Nov. 1783, is a pathetic exhortation, in which the disinterestedness of

the patriot is blended with the wisdom of the philosopher.—It contains the following interesting and impressive passages.

“It only remains for the commander in Chief to address himself once more, and for the last time, to the armies of the United States, and to bid them an affectionate—a long farewell.

“It is universally acknowledged, that the enlarged prospects of happiness opened by the establishment of our Independence, almost exceed the power of description; and shall not the brave men who have contributed so essentially to this inestimable acquisition, retiring victorious from the field of war to the field of agriculture, participate in all the blessings which have been obtained?—In such a republic, who will exclude them from the rights of citizens, and the fruits of their labours?—To those hardy soldiers who are actuated by the spirit of adventure, the fisheries will afford an ample and profitable employment: and the fertile regions of the West will yield a most happy asylum to those who, fond of domestic enjoyment, are seeking for personal independence.

“The commander in Chief conceives little is now wanting to enable the soldiers to change the military character into that of the citizen; but that steady and decent tenour of behaviour which has generally distinguished not only the army under his immediate command, but

the different detachments and separate armies through the course of the war—from their good sense and prudence, he anticipates the happiest consequences; and, while he congratulates them on the glorious occasion which renders their services in the field no longer necessary, he wishes to express the strong obligation he feels himself under, for the assistance he has received from every class, and in every instance. To the various branches of the army, the General takes this last and solemn opportunity of professing his inviolable attachment and friendship—He wishes more than bare professions were in his power—that he was really able to be useful to them in future life. And being now to conclude these his last public orders, to take his ultimate leave, in a short time of the military character, and to bid a final adieu to the armies he has so long had the honour to command, he can only again offer, in their behalf, his recommendations to their grateful country, and his prayers to the God of Armies. May ample justice be done them here, and may the choicest of Heaven's favours both here and hereafter attend those who, under the Divine auspices have secured innumerable blessings for others!—With these wishes, and this benediction, the Commander in chief is about to retire from service. The curtain of separation will soon be drawn, and the military scene, to him, will be closed for ever.”

To this address, the army that remained at West Point, on the banks of the Hudson, sent a most respectful and affectionate answer. After returning thanks to their General, for his exertions in their favour, they express their feelings in the following bold and figurative language :

“ Regardless of present sufferings, we looked forward to the end of our toils and dangers, to brighter scenes in prospect. There we beheld the genius of our Country dignified, by our Sovereignty and Independence, supported by justice, and adorned with every liberal Virtue. There we saw patient Husbandry fearless extend her cultivated field, and animated Commerce spread her sails to every wind. There we beheld fair Science lift her head, with all the Arts attending in her train. There, blest with Freedom, we saw the human Mind expand, and throwing aside the restraints which confined it to the narrow bounds of country, it embraced the world. Those animating prospects are now changing to realities, and actively to have contributed to their production, is our pride, our glory.”

New-York was evacuated by the British troops about 3 weeks after the discharge of the American army. Meanwhile, Washington, having finished the great work of the Revolution, and founded a Republic, he wished to retire from the eye of observation, to the peace-

ful rural shades of his patrimonial inheritance. Accordingly, he took leave of his officers in the most solemn manner. Having been previously assembled for that purpose, Washington joined them, and calling for a glass of wine addressed them in the following words: "With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you:—I most devoutly wish, that your latter days may be prosperous and happy, as your former ones have been glorious and honourable." The officers were deeply affected: they came up to him successively, and he took an affectionate leave of each. He then left the room, and passed between the ranks of a corps of Light Infantry, that lined his way to the side of the North River.—The officers followed him in a solemn silent train; their eyes were suffused with tears. They felt a strong emotion of regret at parting with a hero who had participated their dangers, and so often led them to glory. When Washington entered the barge, he turned towards his fellow-soldiers, with a countenance expressive of his feelings, and waved his hat as a last adieu.

He proceeded to Annapolis, to resign his commission to Congress, and was accompanied by his nephew, Major George Washington, and Colonel Humphreys his aid-de-camp.—His progress was marked by public rejoicings: triumphal arches were erected at the entrance of every town and village through which he

passed. A number of beautiful young virgins, robed in white, met him with songs of gratulation—they strewed laurel before the benign hero, who moved slowly on a white charger. The name of Washington excited an universal emotion. Women and children thronged the doors and windows, eager to behold the Deliverer of their Country—bands of music filled the air with sprightly melody, while the men, who had fought under the banners of Liberty hailed their General with acclamations. Washington received this tribute of public gratitude with his characteristic benignity while his bosom participated the general happiness.

On his arrival at Annapolis, he informed Congress of his intended resignation ;—they resolved it should be in a public audience, and on the day appointed, numbers of distinguished persons attended, to behold the interesting scene. General Washington addressed the President in the following words.

MR. PRESIDENT,

“The great events on which my resignation depended, having at length taken place, I have now the honour of offering my sincere congratulations to Congress, and of presenting myself before them to surrender into their hands the trust committed to me, and to claim the indulgence of retiring from the service of my country.

“Happy in the confirmation of our Independence and Sovereignty, and pleased with the opportunity afforded the United States of becoming a respectable nation, I resign with satisfaction, the appointment I accepted with diffidence ; a diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task, which however, was superceded by a confidence in the rectitude of our cause, the support of the Supreme Power of the Union, and the patronage of Heaven.

“The successful termination of the war has verified the most sanguine expectations, and my gratitude for the interposition of Providence, and the assistance I have received from my countrymen, increases with every review of the momentous contest.

“While I repeat my obligations to the army in general, I should do injustice to my own feelings, not to acknowledge, in this place, the peculiar services and distinguished merits of the persons who had been attached to my person during the war ; It was impossible the choice of confidential officers to compose my family should have been more fortunate ; permit me, sir, to recommend, in particular, those who have continued in the service to the present moment, as worthy of the favourable notice and patronage of Congress.

“I consider it as my indispensable duty to close this last solemn act of my official life, by

recommending the interests of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God, and those who have the superintendence of them to his holy keeping.

“ Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of action, and bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body, under whose orders I have long acted, I here offer my commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life.”

To this the President returned the following answer :

“ The United States in Congress assembled, receive with emotions too affecting for utterance, the solemn resignation of the authorities under which you have led their troops with success through a perilous and doubtful war.

“ Called upon by your Country to defend its invaded rights, you had accepted the sacred charge before it had formed alliances, and whilst it was without friends or a government to support her.

“ You have conducted the great military contest with wisdom and fortitude, invariably regarding the rights of the civil power through all disasters and changes. You have by the love and confidence of your fellow-citizens, enabled them to display their martial genius and transmit their fame to posterity.—Having defended the standard of Liberty in this new world, having taught a lesson useful to those

who inflict, and to those who feel oppression, you retire from the great theatre of action with the blessings of your fellow-citizens; but the glory of your virtues will not terminate with your military command—it will continue to animate remotest ages.”

Washington now hastened to Mount Vernon, where he was welcomed by his affectionate consort, neighbors and domestics, with every demonstration of joy; and divesting himself of the military robe, he once more assumed the plain garb of the farmer.

Agriculture was his favourite pursuit—His estate at Mount Vernon particularly engaged his attention, and was productive of large quantities of wheat, Indian corn, potatoes, and flax, besides flocks of sheep and herds of cattle.—His life was regulated by temperance; he rose early, and after spending the day in a variety of rural pursuits, he retired to rest about nine o'clock. This was his invariable rule, except when visitors required his polite attention. His table was spread with the most wholesome viands and pure wines, but he commonly dined on a single dish, which with a few glasses of wine, formed his repast. He liberally patronized an academy at Alexandria, encouraged the interior navigation of the Potomack; he was the benefactor of the poor, and, in short, like the sun to vegetation, his

cheering influence and example promoted the happiness of society where he resided.

In these peaceful scenes, Washington enjoyed the rational delights of rural life from the year 1783, till the summer of 1787, when he was chosen President of the Convention, which met at Philadelphia, and framed the present Constitution of the United States. The Federal Union after eleven years experience, had been found inadequate to the purposes of government. The fundamental distinction between the Articles of Confederation, and the new Constitution, lies in this; the former acted only on States, the latter on individuals;—the former could neither raise men or money by its own authority, but lay at the discretion of 13 different Legislatures, and, without their unanimous concurrence, was unable to provide for the public safety, or for the payment of the national debt. By the new Constitution, one Legislative, Executive, and Judicial power pervades the whole Union." After a full consideration, and thorough discussion of its principles, it was ratified by 11 of the 13 states, and North-Carolina and Rhode-Island have since given their concurrence.

The new Constitution being thus adopted, Washington was chosen President in April, 1789, by the unanimous vote of his countrymen. When he received intelligence of his election, he set out from Mount Vernon for New-York.

He was escorted by the militia and gentlemen of the first character from State to State, and numerous addresses of congratulation were presented to him by the inhabitants of the towns through which he passed. On his approach to Philadelphia, he was met by above 20,000 citizens, who conducted him to the city, where an elegant entertainment was prepared for him.

His progress from Philadelphia to New-York is thus described by an elegant writer, and presents an animated picture of public gratitude. "When Mr. Washington crossed the Delaware and landed on the Jersey shore, he was saluted with 3 cheers by the inhabitants of the vicinity. When he came to the brow of the hill on his way to Trenton, a triumphal arch was erected on the bridge, by the direction of the ladies of the place. The crown of the arch was highly ornamented with imperial laurels and flowers, and on it was displayed, in large figures, "December 26th, 1776." On the sweep of the arch, was this inscription, "The Defender of the Mothers will also protect their Daughters." On the north side were ranged a number of young girls dressed in white, with garlands of flowers on their heads, and baskets of flowers on their arms—in the second row stood the young ladies, and behind them the married ladies of the town. The instant he passed the arch, the young girls began to sing the following ode :

" Welcome, mighty Chief, once more,

" Welcome to this grateful shore :—

" Now no mercenary foe

" Aims, again, the fatal blow—

" Aims at thee the fatal blow.

" Virgins fair and matrons grave,

" These thy conq'ring arm did save,

" Build for thee triumphant bowers ;

" Strew ye fair, his way with flowers.

" Strew your Hero's way with flowers.

" As they sung the last lines, they strewed their flowers on the road before their beloved Deliverer.—His situation on this occasion, contrasted with what he had, in December, 1776, felt on the same spot, when the affairs of America were at the lowest ebb of depression, filled him with sensations that cannot be described. He was rowed across the bay from Elizabeth-Town to New-York, in an elegant barge, by 13 pilots. All the vessels in the harbour hoisted their flags. On his landing, universal joy diffused itself through every order of the people, and he was received and congratulated by the Governor of the State and officers of the Corporation. In the evening, the houses of the inhabitants were brilliantly illuminated.

On the 30th of April he was inaugurated President of the United States, and took the oath enjoined by the constitution, in the following words, " I do solemnly swear, that I

will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." An universal and solemn silence prevailed among the spectators during this part of the ceremony. The Chancellor then proclaimed him President of the United States, and was answered by the discharge of cannon, and the acclamations of 20,000 citizens.

Soon after his appointment to the Chief Magistracy, he visited the Eastern States, with a view to promote agriculture, and explore the means of national improvement. The French Revolution, which has excited the attention of mankind, proved a severe test to the prudence of Washington. Though he secretly disapproved of the violent measures of the French Republic, yet he saw that it was necessary for America to preserve a mutual good understanding with that nation.

Washington was twice elected President, and during his 8 years administration, he performed the duties of his arduous office with all the zeal of an honest patriot.—After having spent 45 years of his life in the service of his country, he, in September, 1796, announced his determination to retire in an address, expressive of his gratitude and affection.

Washington once more retired to his favourite seat, with the hope of devoting the re-

mainder of his days to the calm duties of domestic life. From March, 1797, to July, 1798, he enjoyed the pleasures arising from the practice of virtue. The aggressions of France now alarmed Mr. Adams' administration, and that they might be prepared to resist open hostility, they found it expedient to embody their army. Convinced of the abilities and integrity of that venerable man, whose valour had been instrumental to the emancipation of his country, Congress appointed Washington Commander in Chief of the armies. He accepted the appointment, and his letter to the President on that occasion, is marked with that perspicuity which distinguishes all his writings.

But the moment now approached in which this illustrious character was to be removed to another state of existence. On the 12th of December, 1799, he rode out to one of his plantations, and the day being rainy he caught cold, which brought on an inflammatory sore throat. This disease became alarming on Friday night, and when his physician arrived on Saturday morning, medical aid was inefficacious. A few minutes before he expired, he enquired, "Doctor, how long am I to remain in this situation?" The physician replied, "Not long Sir."

A gentleman, who was present at Mount Vernon, has furnished us with the following

particulars relative to the death of General Washington :—

“ The General, a little before his death, had begun several improvements on his farm. Attending to some of these, he probably caught his death. He had in contemplation a gravel walk on the banks of the Potomack ; between the walk and the river there was to be a fish pond. Some trees were to be cut down, and others preserved. On Friday the day before he died, he spent some time by the side of the river marking the former. There came a fall of snow, which did not deter him from his pursuit, but he continued till his neck and hair were quite covered with snow. He spent the evening with Mrs. Washington, reading the news-papers, which came by the mail that evening ; he went to bed as usual about nine o'clock, waked up in the night, and found himself extremely unwell, but would not allow Mrs. Washington to get up, or the servants to be waked. In the morning finding himself very ill, Dr. Craik of Alexandria, was sent for. Soon after his arrival, two consulting physicians were called in, but all would not avail. On Saturday he died. He said to Col. Lear a little before his death, “ bury me decently, and not till two days after my decease.” To Dr. Craik he said. “ I die a very hard death, but I am not afraid to die.”—Before he breathed his last, he laid himself on his back, placed his hands

before him, and closed his own mouth and eyes."

PHILADELPHIA, *Dec.* 19.

On Saturday the 14th inst. died at his seat in Virginia, General George Washington, Commander in Chief of the Armies, and late President of the Congress, of the United States of America—mature in years, covered with glory, and rich in the affections of a free people, and the admiration of the whole civilized world.

When men of common character are swept from the theatre of life, they die without the tribute of public concern, as they had lived without a claim to public esteem—But when Personages of great and exalted worth, are summoned from this sublunary scene, their death calls forth a burst of general regret, and invigorates the flame of public gratitude—In obedience therefore to the voice of their Country, the Poet, the Orator, and the Historian, will combine to do justice to the character of this illustrious PATRIOT : whilst the ingenious labours of the Sculptor, the Statuary, and the Painter, will unite in perpetuating the virtues of THE MAN OF THE AGE.

Mourn, COLUMBIA, mourn !—Thy Father and Protector is no more !—Mourn Reader, of whatever kindred, tongue or clime thou be, *thy* Friend, the Friend of Man and of Liberty, is gone ! The Hero, the Sage, the Patriot,

this glorious emanation of the Deity, is carried back to the bosom of his God!—The recording Angel has enregistered his virtuous deeds in Heaven, and the name of WASHINGTON will live forever!

ALEXANDRIA, Dec. 20.

On Wednesday last the mortal part of Washington the Great—the Father of his Country, and the Friend of Man was consigned to the silent tomb with solemn honours and funeral pomp.

A multitude of people, from many miles round, assembled at Mount Vernon, the choice abode, and last earthly residence of its illustrious Chief. There were the groves, the spacious avenues, the beautiful scenery, the noble mansion—but alas! its august inhabitant was gone!—his body indeed, was there, but his soul was fled!

In the long and lofty portico, where oft the Hero walked in all his virtuous glory, now lay the shrowded corpse.—The countenance, still composed and serene, seemed to express the dignity of that spirit which so lately actuated the lifeless form—There, those who paid the last sad honours to the Benefactor of his Country, took a last—a sad farewell.

Near the head of the coffin, were inscribed the words *Surge ad Judicium*; about the middle, *Gloria Deo*; and on the silver plate,

*General George Washington departed this Life
14th December Ætat 68.*

Between 3 and 4 o'clock, the sound of artillery from a vessel in the river firing minute guns, aroused all our sorrowful feelings—the body was moved, and a band of music with mournful melody melted the soul into all the tenderness of woe.—the procession marched in the following order :

CAVALRY, INFANTRY AND GUARD
with arms reversed ;

CLERGY ;—MUSIC ;

*The general's horse, with his saddle, holsters,
and pistols ;*

Col. SIMMS, RAMSAY, PAYNE,	}	CORPSE	Col. GILPIN, MARSTELLER, LITTLE ;
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MOURNERS ;

MASONIC BRETHREN ;

AND CITIZENS.

When the procession arrived at the bottom of the lawn on the banks of the Potomack, where the family vault is placed, the Cavalry halted and the Infantry marched towards the mount and formed in lines ; the Clergy, the Masonic Brethren, and the Citizens, descended to the vault, where the Church funeral service was performed.

Three general discharges by the artillery, cavalry, and infantry paid the last tribute of respect to the entombed Commander in Chief of the American Armies.

The sun was now setting—Alas, the Son of Glory was set—No, the name of WASHINGTON will live forever !

From Vernon's Mount behold the Hero rise,
Resplendent Forms attend him thro' the skies !
The shades of war-worn Veterans round him throng
And lead enwrap'd their honour'd Chief along,
A laurel wreath the immortal WARREN bears ;
An arch triumphal MERCER's hand prepares ;
Young LAWRENCE, erst th' avenging bolt of war,
With port majestic, guides the glittering car ;
MONTGOMERY's godlike form directs the way,
And GREEN unfolds the gates of endless day ;
Whilst Angels, 'trumpet tongu'd' proclaim thro' air,
'Due honours for THE FIRST OF MEN prepare !'

PROCEEDINGS IN CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, Dec. 19, 1799.

Mr. Marshall addressed the Chair as follows :
“ Mr. SPEAKER—The melancholy event which was yesterday announced with doubt, has been rendered but too certain. Our Washington is no more !—The hero, the sage, and the patriot of America—the man on whom in times of danger, every eye was turned, and all hopes were placed, lives now, only in his own great

actions, and in the hearts of an affectionate and an afflicted people.

“ If, Sir, it had even not been usual, openly to testify respect for the memory of those whom Heaven had selected as its instruments for dispensing good to men, yet, such has been the uncommon worth, and such the extraordinary incidents, which have marked the life of him, whose loss we all deplore, that the whole American nation, impelled by the same feelings, would call with one voice, for a public manifestation of that sorrow, which is so deep and so universal.

“ More than any other individual, and as much as to one individual was possible, has he contributed to found this our wide spreading Empire, and to give to the Western World its independence and freedom.

“ Having effected the great object, for which he was placed at the head of our armies, we have seen him converting the sword into the plough-share, and voluntarily sinking the Soldier into the Citizen.

“ When the debility of our Federal system had become manifest, and the bonds, which connected the parts of this vast continent, were dissolving, we have seen him the Chief of those Patriots who formed for us a Constitution, which by preserving the Union, will, I trust, substantiate and perpetuate those blessings, which our Revolution had promised to bestow.

“In obedience to the general voice of his Country, calling on him to preside over a Great People, we have seen him once more quit the retirement he loved, and in a season more tempestuous than war itself, with calm and wise determination, pursue the true interests of the Nation, and contribute, more than any other could contribute, to the establishment of that system of policy, which will, I trust, yet preserve our peace, our honor, and our independence.

“Having been twice unanimously chosen the Chief Magistrate of a Free People, we see him, at a time when his re-election with universal suffrage could not be doubted, affording to the world a rare instance of moderation, by withdrawing from his high station to the peaceful walks of private life.

“However the public confidence may change and the public affections fluctuate with respect to others, yet, with respect to him, they have in war and in peace, in public and in private life, been as steady as his own firm mind, and as constant as his own exalted virtues.

“Let us, then, Mr. Speaker, pay the last tribute of affection and respect to our departed Friend—Let the Grand Council of the Nation display those sentiments which the Nation feels—For this purpose I hold in my hand some Resolutions, which I take the liberty of offering to the House.”

Mr. Marshall having handed his Resolutions to the Clerk, they were read, and unanimously agreed to, as follows, viz.

Resolved, That this House will wait on the President of the United States, in condolence of this mournful event.

Resolved, That the Speaker's chair be shrouded with black, and that the members and officers of the House wear black during the Session.

Resolved, That a Committee, in conjunction with one from the Senate, be appointed to consider on the most suitable manner of paying honour to the memory of the MAN, first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his Countrymen.

MONDAY, Dec. 23.

Mr. Marshall made a report from the joint Committee appointed to consider a suitable mode of commemorating the death of General Washington.

He reported the following Resolutions :

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That a marble monument be erected by the United States at the Capitol of the City of Washington, and that the family of General Washington be requested to permit his body to be deposited under it ; and that the monument be so designed as to commemorate the great events of his military and political life.

And be it further resolved, That there be a funeral procession from Congress Hall, to the German Lutheran Church, in memory of Gen. George Washington, on Thursday the 26th inst and that an oration be prepared at the request of Congress, to be delivered before both Houses that day ; and that the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, be desired to request one of the Members to deliver the same.

And be it further resolved, That it be recommended to the people of the United States, to wear crape on their left arm as mourning, for thirty days.

And be it further resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to direct a copy of these Resolutions to be transmitted to Mrs. Washington, assuring her of the profound respect Congress will ever bear to her person and character, of their condolence on the late affecting dispensation of Providence, and intreating her assent to the interment of the remains of General Washington in the manner expressed in the first resolution.

And be it further resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to issue his proclamation, notifying to the People throughout the United States the recommendation contained in the third resolution.

These Resolutions passed both Houses unanimously.

Same day, the Senate sent the following letter of condolence to the President of the United States, by a committee of its members :

To the President of the United States.

THE Senate of the United States respectfully take leave, Sir, to express to you the deep regret for the loss their country sustains in the death of General George Washington.

This event, so distressing to all our fellow-citizens must be peculiarly heavy to you, who have long been associated with him in deeds of Patriotism. Permit us, Sir, to mingle our tears with yours—on this occasion it is manly to weep. To lose such a man, at such a crisis, is no common calamity to the world—our Country mourns her Father. The Almighty Disposer of human events has taken from us our greatest Benefactor and Ornament—It becomes us to submit with reverence to Him, who “maketh darkness his pavilion.”

With patriotic pride, we review the life of our WASHINGTON, and compare him with those of other countries, who have been pre-eminent in fame. Ancient and modern names are diminished before him. Greatness and Guilt have too often been allied; but his fame is whiter than it is brilliant. The destroyers of nations stood abashed at the majesty of his virtue.—It reprov'd the intemperance of their ambition, and darkened the splendour of victory. The scene is closed, and we are

no longer anxious lest misfortune should sully his glory ; he has travelled on to the end of his journey, and carried with him an increasing weight of honour ; he has deposited it safely, where Misfortune cannot tarnish it—Where Malice cannot blast it. Favoured of Heaven, he departed without exhibiting the weakness of humanity ; magnanimous in death, the darkness of the grave could not obscure his brightness.

Such was the Man whom we deplore.—Thanks to God, his glory is consummated—WASHINGTON yet lives on earth in his spotless example—his spirit is in Heaven !

Let his countrymen consecrate the memory of the heroic General—the patriotic Statesman—and the virtuous Sage ;—let them teach their children never to forget, that the fruits of his labours and his example are their inheritance.

The PRESIDENT'S ANSWER.

Gentlemen of the Senate,

I RECEIVE, with the most respectful and affectionate sentiments, in this impressive Address, the obliging expressions of your regret for the loss our country has sustained, in the death of her most esteemed, beloved, and admired Citizen.

In the multitude of my thoughts and recollections on this melancholy event, you will permit me to say, that I have seen him in the

days of adversity, in some of the scenes of his deepest distress, and most trying perplexities; I have also attended him in his highest elevation, and most prosperous felicity, with uniform admiration of his wisdom, moderation, and constancy.

Among all our original associates in that memorable League of the continent in 1774, which first expressed the sovereign will of a Free Nation in America, he was the only one remaining in the General Government. Although, with a constitution more enfeebled than his, at an age when he thought it necessary to prepare for retirement, I feel myself alone—bereaved of my last brother; yet I derive a strong consolation from the unanimous disposition which appears in all ages and classes, to mingle their sorrows with mine on this common calamity to the world.

The life of our WASHINGTON cannot suffer by a comparison with those of other countries, who have been most celebrated and exalted by Fame. The attributes and decorations of *Royalty* could only have served to eclipse the majesty of those virtues which made him, from being a modest *Citizen*, a more resplendant luminary. Misfortune, had he lived, could hereafter have sullied his glory only with those superficial minds, who, believing "that characters, and actions are marked by success alone," rarely deserve to enjoy it.

Malice could never blast his honour, and *Envy* made him a singular exception to her universal rule—For himself, he had lived enough to Life and Glory—For his fellow-citizens, if their prayers could have been answered, he would have been immortal—For me, his departure is at a most unfortunate moment. Trusting, however, in the wise and righteous dominion of Providence over the passions of men, and the results of their councils and actions, as well as over their lives, nothing remains for me but humble resignation.

His example is now complete, and it will teach wisdom and virtue to magistrates, citizens, and men, not only in the present age, but in future generations, as long as our history shall be read—If a Tragen found a Pliny, a Marcus Aurelius can never want biographers, eulogists, or historians.

JOHN ADAMS.

On Monday the 8th of January, the President sent the following letters to Congress:—

*Gentlemen of the Senate, and
Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,*

In compliance with the request in one of the Resolutions of Congress of the 21st of December last, I transmitted a copy of those resolutions, by my Secretary, Mr. Shaw, to Mrs. Washington, assuring her of the profound respect Congress will ever bear to her

person and character—of their condolence in the late afflicting dispensation of Providence, and entreating her assent to the interment of the remains of General George Washington in the manner expressed in the first Resolution. As the sentiments of that virtuous lady, not less beloved by this nation, than she is at present greatly afflicted, can never be so well expressed as in her own words, I transmit to Congress her original letter.

It would be an attempt of too much delicacy to make any comments upon it—But there can be no doubt, that the Nation at large, as well as all the branches of the Government, will be highly gratified by any arrangement which may diminish the sacrifice she makes of her individual feelings.

JOHN ADAMS.

MRS. WASHINGTON'S ANSWER.

Mount Vernon, 31st Dec. 1799.

SIR,—While I feel with keenest anguish, the late dispensations of Divine Providence, I cannot be insensible to the mournful tribute of respect and veneration which is paid to the memory of my dear deceased husband; and, as his best services and most anxious wishes were always devoted to the welfare and happiness of his country, to know that they were truly appreciated, and gratefully remembered, affords no inconsiderable consolation.

Taught by the great example which I have so long had before me, never to oppose my private wishes to the public will, I must consent to the request made by Congress, which you have had the goodness to transmit to me. And in doing this, I need not, I cannot say, what a sacrifice of individual feeling I make to a sense of public duty.

With grateful acknowledgments, and unfeigned thanks, for the personal respect and evidences of condolence expressed by Congress and yourself, I remain very respectfully.

MARTHA WASHINGTON.



THE
FAREWELL ADDRESS
 OF
 GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Friends and Fellow-Citizens,

THE period for a new election of a citizen, to administer the executive government of the United States, being not far distant, and the time actually arrived, when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the

public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made. I beg you, at the same time to do me the justice to be assured, that this resolution has not been taken, without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country ; and that in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest ; no deficiency of grateful respect, for your past kindness ; but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in the office to which your suffrages have twice called me, have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty, and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped, that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistent with motives which I was not at liberty to disregard to return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you ; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and

the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice that the state of your concerns, external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty or propriety; and am persuaded, whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country, you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impressions with which I first undertook the arduous trust were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of this trust I will only say, that I have with good intentions, contributed towards the organization and administration of the government, the best exertions of which a very fallible judgment was capable. Not unconscious, in the outset, of the inferiority of my qualifications, experience in my own eyes, perhaps still more in the eyes of others, has strengthened the motives to diffidence of myself; and, every day the increasing weight of years admonishes me more and more that the shade of retirement is as necessary to me as it will be welcome. Satisfied that if any circumstances have given peculiar value to my services, they were temporary, I have the consolation to believe, that while choice and prudence invite me to quit the political scene, patriotism does not forbid it.

In looking forward to the moment, which is intended to terminate the career of my public life, my feelings do not permit me to suspend the deep acknowledgment of that debt of gratitude which I owe to my beloved country, for the many honours it has conferred upon me ; still more for the steadfast confidence with which it has supported me ; and for the opportunities I have thence enjoyed of manifesting my inviolable attachment, by services faithful and persevering, though in usefulness unequal to my zeal. If benefits have resulted to our country from these services, let it always be remembered to your praise and as an instructive example in our annals, that under circumstances in which the passions, agitated in every direction, were liable to mislead, amidst appearances some times dubious—vicissitudes of fortune often discouraging—in situations in which not unfrequently want of success has countenanced the spirit of criticism—the constancy of your support was the essential prop of the efforts, and a guarantee of the plans by which they were effected.

Profoundly penetrated with this idea, I shall carry it with me to my grave, as a strong incitement to unceasing vows that Heaven may continue to you the choicest tokens of its beneficence—that your union and brotherly affection may be perpetual—that the free constitution which is the work of your hands,

may be sacredly maintained—that its administration in every department may be stamped with wisdom and virtue—that, in fine, the happiness of the people of these States under the auspices of liberty, may be made complete. by so careful a preservation and so prudent a use of this blessing, as will acquire to them the glory of recommending it to the applause, the affection and the adoption of every nation which is yet a stranger to it.

Here perhaps I ought to stop. But a solicitude for your welfare, which cannot end but with my life, and the apprehension of danger, natural to that solicitude, urge me on an occasion like the present, to offer to your solemn contemplation, and to recommend to your frequent review, some sentiments, which are the result of much reflection, of no inconsiderable observation, and which appear to me all important to the permanency of your felicity as a People. These will be offered to you with the more freedom, as you can only see in them the disinterested warnings of a parting friend, who can possibly have no personal motives to bias his council. Nor can I forget as an encouragement to it, your indulgent reception of my sentiments on a former and not dissimilar occasion. Interwoven as is the love of liberty with every ligament of your hearts, no recommendation of mine is necessary to fortify or confirm the attachment.

The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you. It is justly so; for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquillity at home, your peace abroad; of your safety; of your prosperity; of that very liberty which you so highly prize. But as it is easy to foresee, that from different causes and from different quarters, much pains will be taken, many artifices employed to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth; as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly and insidiously) directed, it is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national Union, to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual and immoveable attachment to it; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as the palladium of your political safety and prosperity! watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can in any event be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest; or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.

For this you have every inducement of sympathy and interest. Citizens by birth of

choice, of a common country, that country has a right to consecrate your affections. The name of *American*, which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference you have the same religion, manners, habits and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together; the independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint councils, and joint efforts, of common dangers, sufferings and successes. But these considerations, however powerfully they address themselves to your sensibility, are greatly outweighed by those which apply more immediately to your interest—Here every portion of our country finds the most commanding motives for carefully guarding and preserving the Union of the whole.

The North, in an unrestrained intercourse with the South, protected by the equal laws of common government, finds in the productions of the latter great additional resources of maritime and commercial enterprise and precious materials of manufacturing industry. The South, in the same intercourse, benefitting by the agency of the North, sees its agriculture grow and its commerce expand. Turning partly into its own channels the seamen of the North, it finds its particular navigation invigo-

rated; and while it contributes, in different ways, to nourish and increase the general mass of the national navigation, it looks forward to the protection of a maritime strength, to which itself is unequally adapted. The East, in a like intercourse with the West, already finds, and in the progressive improvements of interior communications, by land and water, will more and more find a valuable vent for the commodities which it brings from abroad or manufactures at home. The West derives from the East supplies requisite to its growth and comfort—and what is perhaps of still greater consequence, it must of necessity owe the secure enjoyment of indispensable outlets for its own productions to the weight, influence and the future maritime strength of the Atlantic side of the Union, directed by an indissoluble community of interest as ONE NATION. Any other tenure by which the West can hold this essential advantage, whether derived from its own separate strength or from an apostate and unnatural connexion with any foreign power, must be intrinsically precarious.

While then every part of our country thus feels an immediate and particular interest in Union, all the parties combined cannot fail to find in the united mass of means and efforts, greater strength, greater resources, proportionably greater security from external danger,

a less frequent interruption of their peace by foreign nations ; and what is of inestimable value ! they must derive from Union an exemption from those broils and wars between themselves, which so frequently afflict neighbouring countries, not tied together by the same government ; which their own rivalships alone would be sufficient to produce, but which opposite foreign alliances, attachments and intrigues would stimulate and embitter.— Hence likewise they will avoid the necessity of those overgrown military establishments, which under any form of government, are inauspicious to liberty, and which are to be regarded as particularly hostile to Republican Liberty ; in this sense it is, that your Union ought to be considered as a main prop of your liberty, and that the love of the one ought to endear to you the preservation of the other.

These considerations speak a persuasive language to every reflecting and virtuous mind, and exhibit the continuance of the *Union* as a primary object of patriotic desire. Is there a doubt, whether a common government can embrace so large a sphere ? Let experience solve it. To listen to mere speculation in such a case were criminal. We are authorized to hope that a proper organization of the whole, with auxiliary agency of governments for the respective sub-divisions, will afford a happy issue to the experiment. 'Tis well worth a fair and full experiment. With such

powerful and obvious motives to Union, affecting all parts of our country, while experience shall not have demonstrated its impracticability, there will always be reason to distrust the patriotism of those, who in any quarter may endeavour to weaken its bands.

In contemplating the cause which may disturb our Union, it occurs as a matter of serious concern, that any ground should have been furnished for characterising parties by *geographical* discriminations—*northern* and *southern*—*Atlantic* and *western*—whence designing men may endeavour to excite a belief that there is a real difference of local interests and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence, within particular districts, is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heart burnings which spring from these misrepresentations; they tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection. The inhabitants of our western country have lately had a useful lesson on this head: they have seen, in the negotiation by the Executive, and in the unanimous ratification by the Senate, of the treaty with Spain, and in the universal satisfaction at that event throughout the United States, a decisive proof how unfounded were the suspicions propagated among them of a policy in the General

Government and in the Atlantic States, unfriendly to their interests in regard to the *Mississippi* : they have been witnesses to the formation of two treaties, that with G. Britain and that with Spain, which secure to them every thing they could desire, in respect to our foreign relations, towards confirming their prosperity. Will it not be their wisdom to rely for the preservation of these advantages on the Union by which they were procured ? Will they not henceforth be deaf to those advisers, if such there are, who would sever them from their brethren, and connect them with aliens ?

To the efficacy and permanency of your Union, a government for the whole is indispensable—No alliances, however strict, between the parts, can be an adequate substitute : they must inevitably experience the infractions and interruptions which all alliances in all times have experienced. Sensible of this momentous truth, you have improved upon your first essay, by the adoption of a constitution of government better calculated than your former, for an intimate Union, and for the efficacious management of your common concerns. This government, the offspring of our own choice, uninfluenced and unawed, adopted upon full investigation and mature deliberation, completely free in its principles, in the distribution of its powers, uniting security

with energy, and containing within itself a provision for its own amendment, has a just claim to your confidence and your support. Respect for its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of true Liberty. The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and alter their Constitutions of Government—But, the constitution which at any time exists till changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. The very idea of the power and the right of the people to establish government presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established government.

All obstructions to the execution of the Laws, all combinations and associations, under whatever plausible character, with the real design to direct, control, counteract, or awe the regular deliberation and action of the constituted authorities, are destructive of this fundamental principle, and of fatal tendency. They serve to organize faction, to give it an artificial and extraordinary force—to put in the place of the delegated will of the nation, the will of a party, often a small but artful and enterprising part of the community; and, according to the alternate triumphs of different parties to make the public administration the mirror of the ill-concerted and incongruous

projects of factions, rather than the organ of consistent and wholesome plans digested by common councils, and modified by mutual interests. However combinations or associations of the above description may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely in the course of time and things to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people, and to usurp to themselves the reins of government; destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.

Towards the preservation of your government and the permanency of your present happy state, it is requisite, not only that you speedily discountenance irregular oppositions to its acknowledged authority, but also that you resist with care the spirit of innovation upon its principles however specious the pretexts. One method of assault may be to effect in the forms of the constitution alterations which will impair the energy of the system, and thus to undermine what cannot be directly overthrown. In all the changes to which you may be invited, remember that time and habit are at least as necessary to fix the true character of governments, as of other human institutions—that experience is the surest standard, by which to test the real tendency of the existing constitution of a country—that

facility in changes upon the credit of mere hypothesis and opinion, exposes to perpetual change from the endless variety of hypothesis and opinion: and remember, especially, that for the efficient management of your common interests, in a country so extensive as ours, a government of as much vigor as is consistent with the perfect security of liberty, is indispensable. Liberty itself will find in such a government, with powers properly distributed and adjusted, its surest guardian. It is, indeed, little else than a name where the government is too feeble to withstand the enterprises of faction, to confine each member of the society within the limits prescribed by the laws, and to maintain all in the secure and tranquil enjoyment of the rights of person and property.

I have already intimated to you, the danger of parties in the state, with particular reference to the founding of them on geographical discriminations. Let me now take a more comprehensive view, and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party, generally. This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind.—It exists under different shapes in all governments, more or less stifled, controled, or repressed; but in those of the popular form, it is seen in its greatest rankness, and is truly

their worst enemy. The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which, in different ages and countries, has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself frightful despotism.—But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism.—The disorders and miseries, which result, gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this despotism to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of public liberty.

Without looking forward to an extremity of this kind (which nevertheless ought not to be entirely out of sight) the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it. It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms: kindles the animosity of one part against another, foment occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which finds a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another.

There is an opinion that parties in free countries are useful checks upon the administration of the government, and serve to keep alive the spirit of liberty. This within certain limits is probably true ; and in governments of a monarchical cast, patriotism may look with indulgence, if not with favor, upon the spirit of party. But in those of a popular character, in governments purely elective, it is a spirit not to be encouraged. From their natural tendency, it is certain there will always be enough of that spirit for every salutary purpose. And there being constant danger of excess, the effort ought to be by force of public opinion, to mitigate and assuage it. A fire not to be quenched ; it demands a uniform vigilance to prevent its bursting into a flame, lest, instead of warming, it should consume.

It is important likewise, that the habits of thinking in a free country, should inspire caution, in those intrusted with its administration, to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department to encroach upon another. The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one, and create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism. A just estimate of that love of power, and proneness to abuse it, which predominates in the human heart is sufficient to satisfy us of

the truth of this position. The necessity of reciprocal checks in the exercise of political power, by dividing and distributing it into different depositories, and constituting each the guardian of public weal against invasions by the others, has been evinced by experiments ancient and modern; some of them in our country and under our own eyes. To preserve them must be as necessary as to institute them. If, in the opinion of the people, the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way which the constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed. The precedent must always greatly overbalance in permanent evil any partial or transient benefit which the use can at any time yield

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.—In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens.—The mere politician equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private

and public felicity. Let it simply be asked, where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation DESERT the oaths, which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice ; and let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure ; reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle. 'Tis substantially true, that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule indeed extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Who that is a sincere friend to it can look with indifference upon the attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric ?

Promote then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge.—In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened. As a very important source of strength and security, cherish public credit, one method of preserving it is to use it as sparingly as possible ; avoiding occasions of expense by cultivating peace ; but remembering also that timely disbursements to prepare for danger, frequently prevent much greater

disbursements to repel it ; avoiding likewise the accumulations of debt, not only by shunning occasions of expense, but by vigorous exertions in time of peace to discharge the debts which unavailing wars may have occasioned, not ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burden which we ourselves ought to bear.— The execution of these maxims belongs to your representatives, but it is necessary that public opinion should co-operate. To facilitate to them the performance of their duty, it is essential that you should practically bear in mind, that towards the payment of debts there must be revenue : to have revenue there must be taxes : that no taxes can be devised which are not more or less inconvenient and unpleasant ; that the intrinsic embarrassment inseparable from the selection of the proper object (which is always a choice of difficulties) ought to be a decisive motive for a candid construction of the conduct of the government in making it, and for a spirit of acquiescence in the measures for obtaining revenue which the public exigences may at any time dictate.

Observe good faith and justice towards all nations ; cultivate peace and harmony with all ; religion and morality enjoin this conduct : and can it be that good policy does not equally enjoin it ? It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and, at no distant period, a great nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too

novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence. Who can doubt that in the course of time and things, the fruits of such a plan would richly repay any temporary advantages which might be lost by a steady adherence to it? Can it be, that Providence has not connected the permanent felicity of a nation with its virtue? The experiment, at least, is recommended by every sentiment which ennobles human nature. Alas! is it rendered impossible by its vices?

• In the execution of such a plan, nothing is more essential than that permanent inveterate antipathies against particular nations, and passionate attachments for others should be excluded, and that in place of them just and amicable feelings towards all should be cultivated. The nation, which indulges towards another an habitual hatred, or an habitual fondness, is in some degree a slave. It is a slave to its animosity or to its affection, either of which is sufficient to lead it astray from its duty and its interest. Antipathy in one nation against another disposes each more readily to offer insult and injury, to lay hold of slight causes of umbrage, and to be haughty and intractable, when accidental, or trifling occasions of dispute occur. Hence frequent collisions, obstinate envenomed and bloody contests. The nation prompted by ill will and resentment, sometimes impels to war the government,

contrary to the best calculations of policy. The government sometimes participates in the national propensity, and adopts through passion what reason would reject; at other times, it makes the animosity of the nation subservient to projects of hostility instigated by pride, ambition and other sinister and pernicious motives. The peace often, sometimes perhaps the liberty of nations has been the victim.

So likewise a passionate attachment of one nation for another produces a variety of evils.—Sympathy for the favourite nation, facilitating the illusion of an imaginary common interest, in cases where no real common interest exists, and infusing into one the enmities of the other, betrays the former into a participation in the quarrels and wars of the latter, without adequate inducement or justification. It leads also to concessions to the favourite nation of privileges denied to others which is apt doubly to injure the nation making the concessions; by unnecessarily parting with what ought to have been retained; and by exciting jealousy, ill will, and a disposition to retaliate, in the parties from whom equal privileges are withheld; And it gives to ambitious, corrupted, or deluded citizens (who devote themselves to the favourite nation) facility to betray, or sacrifice the interests of their country, without odium, sometimes even with popular-

ity ; gilding with the appearance of a virtuous sense of obligation, a commendable deference for public opinion, or a laudable zeal for public good, the base or foolish compliances of ambition, corruption or infatuation.

As avenues to foreign influence in innumerable ways, such attachments are particularly alarming to the truly enlightened and independent patriot. How many opportunities do they afford to tamper with domestic factions, to practice the arts of seduction, to mislead public opinion, to influence or awe the public councils ! Such an attachment of small or weak, towards a great and powerful nation, dooms the former to be the satellite of the latter. Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence, (I conjure you to believe me, fellow-citizens) the jealousy of a free people ought to be **CONSTANTLY** awake ; since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government. But that jealousy, to be useful, must be impartial : else it becomes the instrument of the very influence to be avoided, instead of a defence against it.—Excessive partiality for one foreign nation, and excessive dislike of another, cause those whom they actuate, to see danger only on one side and serve to veil and even second the arts of influence on the other. Real patriots, who may resist the intrigues of the favorite, are liable to be-

come suspected and odious ; while its tools and dupes usurp the applause and confidence of the people, to surrender their interests. The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign relations, is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little **POLITICAL** connection as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith.— Here let us stop.

Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none or very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves by artificial ties, in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics, or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships, or enmities. Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a different course. If we remain one people, under an efficient government, the period is not far off, when we may defy material injury from external annoyance ; when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality, we may at any time resolve upon, to be scrupulously respected ; when belligerent nations, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provocation ; when we may choose peace or war, as our interest, guided by justice, shall counsel:

Why forego the advantages of so peculiar a situation? Why quit our own to stand upon foreign ground? Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalry, interest, humor or caprice? 'Tis our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances, with any portion of the foreign world; so far I mean as we are now at liberty to do it; for let me not be understood as capable of patronising infidelity to existing engagements. I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than to private affairs that honesty is always the best policy. I repeat it, therefore, let those engagements be observed in their genuine sense. But in my opinion, it is unnecessary, and would be unwise, to extend them. Taking care always to keep ourselves, by suitable establishments, on a respectable defensive posture, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies.

Harmony, liberal intercourse with all nations are recommended by policy, humanity, and interest. But even our commercial policy should hold an equal and impartial hand; neither seeking nor granting exclusive favors or preferences; consulting the natural course of things; diffusing and diversifying by gentle means the streams of commerce, but forcing nothing; establishing with powers so dispo-

sed, in order to give trade a stable course, to define the rights of our merchants, and to enable the government to support them, conventional rules of intercourse, the best that present circumstances and mutual opinion will permit; but temporary, and liable to be from time to time abandoned or varied, as experience and circumstances shall dictate; constantly keeping in view, that 'tis folly in one nation to look for disinterested favors from another; that it must pay with a portion of its independence for whatever it may accept under that character; that by such acceptance, it may place itself in the condition of having given equivalents for nominal favors, and yet of being reproached with ingratitude for not giving more. There can be no greater error than to expect, or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation. 'Tis an illusion which experience must cure, which a just pride ought to discard.

In offering to you, my countrymen, these counsels of an old affectionate friend, I dare not hope they will make the strong and lasting impressions I could wish: that they will controul the usual current of the passions, or prevent our nation from running the course which has hitherto marked the destiny of nations: But, if I may even flatter myself, that they may be productive of some partial benefit, some occasional good; that they may now and

then recur to moderate the fury of party spirit to warn against the mischiefs of foreign intrigues, and guard against the imposters of pretended patriotism; this hope will be a full recompence for the solicitude for your welfare, by which they have been dictated. How far in the discharge of my official duties, I have been guided by the principles which have been delineated, the public records and other evidences of my conduct must witness to you and to the world. To myself, the assurance of my own conscience, is, that I have at least believed myself to be guided by them.

In relation to the still subsisting war in Europe, my proclamation of the 22d of April 1793, is the index to my plan. Sanctioned by your approving voice and by that of your representatives in both houses of congress, the spirit of that measure has continually governed me; uninfluenced by any attempt to deter or divert me from it. After deliberate examination, with the aid of the best lights I could obtain, I was well satisfied that our country, under all the circumstances of the case, had a right to take, and was bound in duty and interest, to take a neutral position. Having taken it, I determined, as far as should depend upon me, to maintain it, with moderation, perseverance and firmness.

The consideration which respects the right to hold the conduct, it is not necessary on this

occasion to detail. I will only observe, that according to my understanding of the matter that right, so far from being denied by any of the belligerent powers, has been virtually admitted by all. The duty of holding a neutral conduct may be inferred, without any thing more, from the obligations which justice and humanity impose upon every nation in cases in which it is free to act, to maintain inviolate the relations of peace and amity towards other nations. The inducements of interest for observing that conduct will best be referred to your own reflections and experience. With me, a predominant motive has been to endeavor to gain time to our country to settle and mature its yet recent institutions, and to progress without interruption, to that degree of strength and consistency, which is necessary to give it, humanly speaking, the command of its own fortunes.

Though in reviewing the incidents of my administration, I am unconscious of intentional error: I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to which they may tend. I shall also carry with me the hope that my country will never cease to view them with indulgence; and that after forty-five years of my life dedicated to its service, with an

upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest.—Relying on its kindness in this as in the other things, and actuated by that fervent love towards it, which is so natural to a man, who views in it the native soil of himself and his progenitors for several generations ; I anticipate with pleasing expectation that retreat, in which I promise myself to realize, without alloy the sweet enjoyment of partaking, in the midst of my fellow-citizens, the benign influence of good laws under a free government—the ever favourite object of my heart, and the happy reward, as I trust of our mutual cares, labors and dangers.

G. WASHINGTON.

SIR WILLIAM WALLACE'S BOX.

PHILADELPHIA, 4th January 1792.

On Friday last was presented to the President of the United States, George Washington, a Box elegantly mounted with silver, and made of the celebrated oak tree that sheltered the patriotic Sir WILLIAM WALLACE of Scotland, after the unfortunate battle of Falkirk about the year 1300. This very curious and characteristical present is from the Earl

of Buchan, by the hand of Mr. Archibald Robertson, a Scotch gentleman, and a portrait painter, who arrived in America some months ago. The Box was presented to Lord Buchan by the Goldsmiths Company of Edinburgh; from whom his Lordship requested, and obtained leave, to make it over to the man whom he deemed more deserving of it than himself, and *George Washington was the man.*

We further learn, that, Lord Buchan, has requested of the president, that, on the event of his decease he will consign the Box to that *Man in this Country*, who shall appear, in his judgment, to merit it best, upon the same considerations that induced him to send it to America.

Upon the Box, which is curiously wrought, is a silver plate with the following inscription; "*Presented by the Goldsmiths of Edinburgh to David Stewart Erskine, Earl of Buchan, with the Freedom of their Corporation, by their Deacon—A. D. 1791.*"

Copy of the LETTER from LORD BUCHAN to
Gen. WASHINGTON, accompanying the Box.

Dryburgh Abbey, June 28, 1791.

"SIR,

"I had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter relating to the advertisement of Dr. Anderson's periodical publication in the *Gazette of the United States*; which attention

to my recommendation. I feel very sensibly, and return you my grateful acknowledgments.

“ In the 21st No. of that literary Miscellany, I inserted a monitory paper respecting America, which I flatter myself, may, if attended to on the other side of the Atlantic, be productive of good consequences.

“ To use your own emphatic words, “ May that Almighty Being who rules over the Universe—who presides in the Councils of Nations—and whose providential aid can supply every human defect, consecrate to the Liberties and Happiness of the American people, a government instituted by themselves for public and private security, upon the basis of law and equal administration of Justice, preserving to every individual as much civil and political freedom as is consistent with the safety of the Nation.”—And may HE be pleased to continue your life and strength as long as you can be in any way useful to your country.

“ I have entrusted this sheet inclosed in a Box, made of the Oak that sheltered our Great Sir William Wallace, after the battle of Falkirk, to Mr. Robertson, of Aberdeen, a Painter, with the hope of his having the honour of delivering it into your hand ; recommending him as an able Artist, seeking for fortune and fame in the New World. This box was presented to me by the Goldsmith's Company at Edinburgh, of whom, feeling my own unworthiness,

to receive this magnificently significant present, I requested and obtained leave to make it over to the man in the world to whom I thought it most justly due. Into *your* hands I commit it, requesting of you to pass it, on the event of your decease, to the Man in your own country who shall appear to your judgment to merit it best, upon the same considerations that have induced me to send it to your Excellency.

“ I am, Sir, with the highest esteem,
Your Excellency’s most obedient,
And obliged humble servant,

BUCHAN.

“ P. S.—I beg your Excellency will have the goodness to send me your Portrait, that I may place it among those I most honour, and I would wish it from the pencil of Mr. Robertson. I beg leave to recommend him to your countenance, as he has been mentioned to me favourably by my worthy friend, Professor Ogilvie, of King’s College, Aberdeen.

Gen. WASHINGTON’S ANSWER.

Philadelphia, 1st May, 1792.

My Lord,

“ I should have had the honour of acknowledging sooner the receipt of your letter of the 28th of June last, had I not concluded to defer doing it till I could announce to you the transmission of my portrait, which has just been finished by Mr. Robertson (of New-

York) who has also undertaken to forward it. The manner of the execution of it does no discredit, I am told, to the artist, of whose skill favourable mention has been made to me. I was further induced to entrust the execution of it to Mr. Robertson, from his having informed me that he had drawn others for your Lordship, and knew the size which best suited your collection.

“ I accept with sensibility and with satisfaction, the significant present of the box which accompanied your Lordship's letter.

“ In yielding the tribute due from every lover of mankind to the patriotic and heroic virtues of which it is commemorative, I estimate, as I ought, the additional value which it derives from the hand that sent it, and my obligations for the sentiments that induced the transfer.

“ I will, however, ask that you will exempt me from the compliance with the request relating to its eventual destination.

“ In an attempt to execute your wish in this particular, I should feel embarrassment from a just comparison of relative pretensions, and fear to risk injustice by so marked a preference.

“ With sentiments of the truest esteem and consideration, I remain your Lordships most obedient servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

Earl of Buchan.

EXTRACT from Gen. Washington's WILL.

Item—To the Earl of Buchan I re-commit “the Box made of the Oak that sheltered the brave Sir William Wallace after the battle of Falkirk,” presented to me by his Lordship in terms too flattering for me to repeat, with a request “to pass it on the event of my decease, to the man in my country who appeared to merit it best, upon the same conditions that have induced him to send it to me.”—Whether easy or not, to select *the* Man who might comport with his Lordship's opinion in this respect, is not for me to say: but conceiving that no disposition of this valuable curiosity can be more eligible than the recommitment of it to his own cabinet, agreeably to the original design of the Goldsmith's Company of Edinburgh, who presented it to him, and at his request consented that it should be transferred to me—I do give and bequeath the same to his Lordship; and in case of his decease to his heir, with my grateful thanks for the distinguished honour of presenting it to me, and more especially for the favourable sentiments with which he accompanied it.

CHARACTER OF WASHINGTON

(*By a Scotch Traveller.*)

In no one thing has the world been so much deceived, as in the article of what is commonly called *Great Men*. Most of them, upon a nearer, and closer inspection, have been found

to be either great hypocrites, or great robbers !—Not so the man whose character is now attempted to be delineated.—Whether in public or in private, he was still the same ; and in that humble, but useful and honourable employment, a Farmer, he pointed the way to Fortune, as, in his public capacities, he had pointed the way to Fame ; eminently proving, in his own person, the difference between system of method and economy, and a course of idleness and dissipation.

By his regular and economical conduct, Mr. Washington became one of the most extensive and opulent Farmers on the continent. He had about 10,000 acres of land attached to his seat of Mount Vernon, where he combined theory with practice, and, by successive improvements, rendered his grounds highly productive. Including his household servants, and those who worked upon the farm, he daily maintained about one thousand persons, all of whom moved and acted according to the rules of a strict, but beneficent system. Like a well-regulated clock, the whole machine moved in perfect time and order—The effects were, that he was completely independent, and died possessed of a great property. It does not appear that Mr. Washington's education was either classical or extensive ; a knowledge of the English language, with a portion of geography and mathematics, seem to have been

the whole of his juvenile improvements. Although his grammatical instructions could not be very accurate, he notwithstanding, attained, by dint of study and observation, a proficiency in the writing of English, smooth, uniform, and even dignified—he wrote in a style that has extorted the approbation of the most fastidious critics. He is an eminent proof, that a man may become an able General without having read Cæsar in the original, and an able politician without having studied either the Greek or Roman authors.

With a tall, majestic person, and a manly countenance, he had a strong but well-governed mind—his perceptions were not quick, but, when once he did take a position, it was generally well chosen, and firmly adhered to—Neither wit nor vivacity brightened his features; it was a face of care, of thought, and of caution; all was calmness and deliberation—Washington's great forte was prudence, or discretion; it covered him like a shield in the hour of danger, and it was his sure guide in the day of prosperity; by this single talent, he acquired all his wealth, and obtained all his celebrity.—Whilst he fulfilled all the relative duties, he was obedient to every temperate rule, and every moral principle; and knowing its vast importance both to individual and national happiness, he paid a proper respect to the observances of Religion.

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